

Britain guarantees Libya a fair trial

LONDON (AFP) — The British government guaranteed Libya Sunday that two of its nationals suspected of carrying out the 1988 Lockerbie bombing would receive a fair trial if extradited to Britain, a spokesman said. In a statement the Foreign Office spokesman said: "We have given the Libyans a series of detailed assurances about a fair trial in Scotland, and (about) the treatment of the two men after they have been surrendered." The statement on the explosion on board a United States Boeing 747 above the Scottish village of Lockerbie which left 270 dead was released through the British Press Association news agency. But the Foreign Office denied a report published in Scotland's Sunday Post newspaper which claimed Britain and Libya had reached a "secret agreement" over the trial of the two men (see page 10). "There is no secret agreement," the spokesman said.

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Jordan to finalise its agenda after Israel-PLO agreement is formalised

By Ayman Al Safadi
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein said Sunday that Jordan was likely to ratify a draft agenda for its talks with Israel after the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Israel sign the self-rule agreement they have reached.

The King stressed, however, that the agenda is not a peace agreement with Israel but an "outline" of the topics that need to be discussed.

"(The agenda) has been misrepresented as an accord. In fact it is an agenda of all topics that have to be discussed in great depth and hopefully the problems that have to be solved," King Hussein told reporters during a joint press conference with Austrian President Thomas Klestil.

King Hussein said Jordan held back the ratification of the agenda until progress was achieved on the Palestinian track of the Arab-Israeli peace negotiations.

"Once we see the Israeli-Palestinian moves materialise in terms of the expected agreement, then we will bear our responsibility towards ourselves, towards the future of our people," the King said.

King Hussein stressed that Jordan was seeking comprehensive peace in the Middle East, which will take time to achieve.

"There is much that is important for us to address and attempt to resolve, but in the final analysis, it will take time to work out these problems and we hope this will be done simultaneously with the other Arab parties (involved) and Israel so that we can have comprehensive peace," the King said.

"We have many problems dictated by geography, proximity, occupied territories and other problems that are a challenge to both sides in terms of bringing about peace in the region between us as well as helping in the Palestinian dimension," the King said in response to a question on whether Jordan has any problems with Israel other than the Palestinian issue.

"There is the human element, there are resources, areas that are still under occupation, and the entire structure of peace in the region," he said.

The King reiterated that it was still premature to define the nature of future Jordanian-Palestinian relations, saying the issue will be addressed when the Palestinians are able to freely

exercise their right to choose.

Responding to a question on possible confederation between Jordan and a Palestinian entity, the King said, "My answer is very very clear ... it is illogical to speak of any form of relationship until such time as our Palestinian brethren are in a position to exercise, under conditions of total freedom, their right of choice. We will talk about it then."

King Hussein, who Saturday gave full support to the PLO-Israeli accord as a serious attempt to achieve comprehensive peace, said the agreement offers "a chance and we hope it will be taken since it is the last chance."

Asked if he believed extremists pose a threat to the peace process and the Gaza-Jericho agreement, the King said, "there is always a danger" but hoped that people will realise that, once there are tangible results that, "this is the only choice, the best choice for all."

King Hussein said that it was clear yet how Jordan can help in building the infrastructure in Gaza and Jericho once the agreement is implemented, adding that Jordan was discussing the issue with the Palestinians to find out "exactly what they require of us and see what we can do to help in any way we can."



His Majesty King Hussein and Austrian President Thomas Klestil at a joint press conference Sunday (photo by Yousef Al 'Allan)

Klestil ends visit praising Jordan

By Ayman Al Safadi
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Austrian President Thomas Klestil left Amman Sunday after a two-day visit during which he held talks with His Majesty King Hussein on bilateral relations and the Middle East peace process. Dr. Klestil said his visit to the Kingdom provided the opportunity to discuss bilateral relations and regional developments at a "very important" phase in the peace process.

During a joint press conference before Dr. Klestil's departure, King Hussein described the Austrian president as a "dear friend (with whom) we share the same views, same ideals and seek to contribute to a better future in our respective regions and in the world."

The King said he was pleased with the results of his meetings with Dr. Klestil. He said the visit was "a milestone in a friendly relationship that grew on mutual trust and respect."

Dr. Klestil, whose country recently hosted an international conference on human rights, said Jordan's human rights record "is a good example of giving democratic rights to people."

He cited Jordan's record of sheltering refugees and displaced persons and the multi-party parliamentary elections that it will hold in November as "a very, very (good) example of human rights."

Commenting on the self-rule accord reached between the Palestinians and Israel, Dr. Klestil said the agreement was "a very important first step" in the peace process.

He said his country was not involved in the secret Palestinian-Israeli talks that resulted in the Gaza-Jericho agreement.

The timing of his visit "is no indication that we were involved in the secret talks," he told the press

conference.

He said Austria was not asked to play any role in the secret talks but would do so in the future if invited by all the concerned parties.

Dr. Klestil said Austria would continue to support the peace process and "was happy to see that developments confirm the right track of Austria's foreign policy."

Austria chairs the water committee of the multilateral phase of the Arab-Israeli talks and is also involved in energy-related development in the Middle East.

Dr. Klestil said a Middle East peace agreement should be supported by Europe, which should look at the PLO-Israeli agreement from economic and financial as well as political perspectives.

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Middle East News

U.S. moves towards recognising PLO

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bill Clinton's administration will approach Congress soon on reopening talks with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and a chief aide to Chairman Yasser Arafat said Friday there already are assurances of U.S. recognition.

Administration officials told the Associated Press the point of consulting Congress is to make certain reopening of talks with the PLO after more than three years would not conflict with any standing legal restrictions.

For instance, a congressional amendment prohibits the executive branch from using government funds to hold talks with the PLO. The restrictions were based on a determination the PLO sponsored "terrorism" and targeted Israelis and Americans.

That view is fast-changing now that Israel has concluded lengthy secret negotiations with the PLO and is on the verge of turning over Gaza and the West Bank to Palestinian administration and recognising the PLO as a legitimate organisation.

Nabil Shaath, chief political strategist for Mr. Arafat, said in an interview "there are assurances" from the Clinton administration of U.S. recognition.

And a senior U.S. official, in a separate interview, said that a "good self-evident." But first, the United States would resume the dialogue established in December 1988 and suspended in June 1990 after a PLO group attacked Tel Aviv beaches, said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

He stressed it was important to consult Congress, where pro-Israel support has always been strong on "how you change our current policy."

Dr. Shaath, meanwhile, said it was a simple matter, requiring only an executive order, not an act of congress.

Mr. Christopher hinted last Tuesday at a policy shift. "Obviously, there are developments taking place that we are going to follow very carefully," he said.

Officially, the State Department still considers the PLO an umbrella organisation with elements that promote "terrorism" and others that do not.

Dr. Shaath said Mr. Arafat's job now was to convince the PLO's executive and central committee he "made a good deal" with Israel.

It already had the support of at least 75 per cent of the Palestini-

nians who live on the West Bank in Gaza, he said.

Israel and the PLO, after nearly 30 years of bitter enmity, now are working together to sell their deal to the Israeli and Palestinian public.

Critics in Israel see Mr. Arafat's pending toehold on the West Bank as the first phase in a long-held PLO policy of taking over Israel in phases. Mr. Arafat's critics, meanwhile, contend he has settled for too little from the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

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Egyptian group urges Jerusalem liberation

CAIRO (R) — A statement purporting to come from Egypt's shadowy fundamentalist group Jihad urged Muslims to target Jerusalem and liberate the city from Israeli rule.

The faxed statement, signed by the information office of Jihad (holy struggle) and sent to an international news organisation on Saturday night, said the Muslim holy sites in Saudi Arabia, the cities of Mecca and Medina, were also under foreign occupation.

It was not possible to obtain independent confirmation that the statement came from Jihad. The group assassinated President Anwar Sadat in 1981 and now says it is bent on toppling his successor, Hosni Mubarak, to turn Egypt into an Islamic state.

The statement said it was the duty of all Muslims to struggle to liberate Jerusalem, Islam's third holiest site, from the enemies of Islam.

Jihad's chief weapon was the armed struggle, the statement said.

"The most important of our methods is fighting against governments that are apostates from Islam, a method which we consider an obligation on Muslims at this time."

"Our first goal is to set up an Islamic state. A state of the caliphate which will work to... rule by Shar'a and liberate the occupied lands of the Muslims and the first of them is Jerusalem," the statement said.

"We do not count Egypt out of this... or the two holy shrines (at Mecca and Medina) where the agents of America, the Saudi family, have allowed them (the Americans) into the

land of Islam so that they defile the Arabian Peninsula which the Prophet of God purified."

Egypt has charged 248 militants with trying to reactivate the group, crushed after the Sadat assassination.

A statement which said it was from the group claimed responsibility for the attempted assassination of Interior Minister Hassan Al Alfie last month — the bomb attack in central Cairo killed five people.

Saturday's statement said its author was Ayman Al Zawahri, Jihad's "emir," or leader.

Mr. Zawahri, wanted by Egyptian police, is a doctor who went to Afghanistan to help the Mujahedeen fight the Soviet army. Egyptian security forces think he moves between Afghanistan, Iran, and Pakistan, directing militant operations in Egypt.

Jihad is believed to focus on liberating the military as the only force capable of overthrowing Mr. Mubarak. Four of the 248 charged with trying to revive the group have been identified as military personnel and fundamentalist sources say there may be others.

The statement said Jihad had a mission to reform society morally and provide social justice by fair distribution of wealth.

It also said: "There has been a lot of talk recently about our group and its nature.

"We see it as useful to publish a summary of our goals so that people can benefit from them — especially if they have no connection with Islamic movements."

JORDAN TIMES, MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 1993

NEWS IN BRIEF

Pakistan rules out recognition of Israel

ISLAMABAD (AFP) — Pakistan's interim government on Sunday ruled out recognition of Israel in the wake of the possible establishment of official ties between the Palestinian Liberation Organisation and the Jewish state. "We have no plans to recognise Israel," interim Prime Minister Moeen Qureshi told reporters here. However, he said Islamabad would support any step that would lead to the recognition of the Palestinians' rights and would extend support to any arrangement that reduces the suffering of the Palestinian people. The Palestinian people have "suffered enormously" due to denial of their "just rights" at the hands of Israel, he said. Commenting on the efforts for rapprochement, he said Pakistan was "watching with interest and sympathy" the ongoing developments in the Middle East. Israel has recently established relations with several formerly hostile Asian countries including India, China and Vietnam.

Alfi steps up battle against extremists

CAIRO (AP) — The Egyptian government plans to intensify its struggle against Islamic fundamentalists who have been waging a terror campaign against the secular authorities. Interior Minister Hassan Al Alfi said. General Alfi, who was wounded in an Aug. 18 assassination attempt by extremists, was quoted by the local press Sunday as saying security forces would soon launch a "decisive and dissuasive" series of operations "to counter terrorism." He did not provide any details. The suicide bomb attack against Gen. Alfi left five people dead and 17 wounded. He was wounded in the arm and underwent surgery in a Swiss hospital. His statements to the press Sunday marked his return to duty. The attack, one of the deadliest in a months-long campaign of political violence by Islamic fundamentalists, was claimed by a group calling itself Talaat Al Fatah, Vanguard of Conquest.

Bomb explodes near Yemen premier's home

SANAA (AP) — A bomb exploded overnight near the home of Prime Minister Haidar Al Attas, but caused no casualties, police said Sunday. Police officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, made no mention of any damage. The identity of the bombers was not known and there was no claim of responsibility. The bombing marked the first outbreak of political violence since parliamentary elections in April, the first multi-party poll on the Arabian Peninsula. The runup to the election was marred by widespread violence, including attacks on leading politicians. Mr. Attas is a former leader of South Yemen, and was a target in the pre-election violence in which his brother was assassinated. A bomb exploded near Mr. Attas' home shortly before the elections.

Israel moves to winter time for morning prayer

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israel moved to winter time overnight Saturday-Sunday and put the clocks back to make local time GMT plus two hours, the energy ministry announced. Israel calls an early end to summer time (GMT plus three hours), which began on April 2, so that Orthodox Jews have daylight to pray in the morning in preparation for the Jewish new year on Sept. 15. The energy ministry, noting that more than \$12 million were saved in energy costs this summer, wanted Israel to put the clocks back on Oct. 23, more in line with Europe.

Saudis publish phone numbers of religious leaders

DUBAI (R) — Saudi Arabian citizens with urgent religious questions can now seek advice of the country's top Islamic leaders by phoning them at home outside office hours. An announcement carried by the official Saudi Press Agency on Saturday night and repeatedly broadcast in full on Saudi Radio on Sunday gave the telephone numbers of five top men. They included Sheikh Abdul Aziz Ben Abdullah Ben Baz, the recently appointed mufti of Saudi Arabia and president of the Higher Council of Ulema. It said the numbers were being published "in view of the people's great need for answers to their questions." The announcement listed the telephone numbers, with appropriate times when calls could be received. No calls should be made after 10 p.m. it said.

Italy said set to free Kurdish spokesman

ROME (R) — Italy's justice minister has requested the release of a Kurdish guerrilla representative held in a Rome prison since Thursday, state radio reported Sunday. Justice Minister Giovanni Conso has asked Rome's appeal court to revoke the detention of Ali Sapan, a spokesman in Europe for the separatist Kurdish Labour Party (PKK), it said. Mr. Conso made the request after receiving fresh documentation from the Turkish authorities showing the alleged offences for which Mr. Sapan were being held were regarded as having lapsed under Italian law, the radio added. The Turkish authorities have said they wanted Mr. Sapan extradited on charges of subversion. Mr. Sapan was detained in central Rome Thursday after leaving the city's foreign press club where he had given a news conference on his efforts to negotiate the release of two Italian tourists currently in the hands of Kurdish separatists.

Submarine found in Turkish coal mine

ANKARA (AP) — A vintage submarine, believed to be German, was discovered in a Turkish coal mine on the Black Sea coast, press reports said Sunday. The submarine had been discovered by miners digging for coal on a strip of land reclaimed from the sea about 50 kilometres northwest of Istanbul, reported Hurriyet, a major national daily. Only the bows of the vessel had been dug up and workers were trying to clear tonnes of sand from the rest of the hull, the paper said. Two torpedoes, found live in forward tubes, had been defused by Turkish navy experts, the newspaper said, speculating that full tubes indicated the sub was sunk while preparing for combat.

Egypt prisoners injure 48 guards

CAIRO (R) — Muslim militants rioted in an Egyptian prison during a police search Sunday, injuring 48 policemen and guards, security sources said. The inmates threw stones and other objects at police who came to search for weapons at Abu Za'bal prison north of Cairo and to move about 200 prisoners to Tora prison south of the capital. Police released teargas grenades and arrested five militant ringleaders, the sources said.

Turks enforce curfew after ambush kills Kurdish legislator

ANKARA (R) — Turkish authorities enforced a curfew on the southeastern town of Batman on Sunday after gunmen shot dead a Kurdish member of parliament and wounded another.

The attack is certain to heighten tension in the southeast, scene of a separatist struggle by Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) rebels which has cost more than 7,000 lives since 1984.

Security forces kept reporters out of the city where Mardin Deputy Mehmet Sincar of the Kurdish-based Democracy Party (DEP) was killed and Batman police chief, Dep. Gen. Nizamettin Toguc wounded when they came under fire in a shopping street on Saturday.

A local DEP member, Metin Ozdemir, was also killed. Three other people were wounded.

DEP Chairman Yasar Kaya said the curfew was imposed on Batman within 10 minutes of the shooting.

"It's obvious that this incident has been planned in advance," he told the pre-Kurdish Istanbul daily Ozgur Gundem, which said Mr. Sincar was the 54th member of DEP or its forerunner, the People's Labour Party, to be murdered since July 1991.

Prime Minister Tansu Ciller said after an emergency cabinet meeting ended early on Sunday: "The attackers will surely be found and the government will pursue the case until they are."

She denied accusations by DEP deputy Hatip Dicle, who was also in Batman at the time of the attack, that police protection had been withdrawn from the DEP delegation on Saturday.

State Minister Mehmet Golhan, in charge of a crisis coordination committee, said

some people had been detained for questioning in Batman but gave no details.

A delegation of seven DEP deputies was visiting Batman to investigate the killing last week of Habip Kilic, brother of DEP Vice-Chairman Nesim Kilic.

DEP officials said security forces had detained Nesim Kilic, accompanying the delegation, at Dersim air port on Friday.

Interior Minister Mehmet Gazioglu, who arrived in Batman on Sunday with Justice Minister Seyfi Oktay, was quoted by Sabah newspaper as blaming the shooting on the PKK.

"According to preliminary information, it was the work of the PKK, which is carrying out such actions to escalate the tension in the region," he told the paper.

But a senior official quoted by Anatolian news agency said the attack bore the hallmarks of the fundamentalist pro-Iranian Hezbollah group, which has feuded with the PKK in recent years.

Kurdish nationalists say the security forces are involved in death squad-style killings attributed to Hezbollah, as part of an undercover war on the PKK. The government denies the claims.

The deputies came under fire in the late afternoon near a pharmacy on a busy street in Batman, a city of fear where scores of people have died in unsolved shootings this year.

The gunmen — conflicting accounts put their number at between one and four — escaped. Police chief Mehmet Agar said 12 cartridges from a nine-millimetre gun had been recovered.

More than 1,300 people have been killed in the southeast since the collapse on May 24 of a unilateral PKK ceasefire.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 631111
Civil Defence Directorate 631111
Rescue 630341
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 691228
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 896390
Police Department 630202
Hotel Complaints 603580
Police Complaints 661176
Complaints 897467
Amman Municipality 897467
Complaints 897467
Water and Sewerage 77511026
Army, Marka 891611015
Queen Alia Hospital 60240500
Amal Hospital 674155
ZARQA:
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Zarqa National Hospital (03)990560
Im Sir Hospital (03)986532
AJ Hikma Modern Hospital (03)990990
IREID:
Princess Bassma Hospital (03)785555
Greek Catholic Hospital (03)772775
Im Al Nafis Hospital (03)471100
Electric Power Company 633681
RJ Flight Information 08-53200
AQAQA:
Queen Alia Int'l. Airport 08-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32
Khaldi Maternity, J. Amm. 6442816
Alkhli Maternity, J. Amm. 6442417
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Mahas, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shmeisani 6641714
Shmeisani Hospital 6669131
University Hospital 638485
Al-Ja'far Hospital 6661707
Al-Ahli Al-Sha'abi 55161465
Italian, Al-Muhajireen 771013
Al-Bashir, J. Arafat 77511026
Army, Marka 891611015
Queen Alia Hospital 60240500
Amal Hospital



Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali Sunday visits the Ministry of Communications and Postal Affairs and is briefed on its activities by Minister Tareq Suheilat (left) and Secretary General Abdulla Al Jazi (Petra photo)

Majali and ministers review transport, communication projects

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali Sunday made an unscheduled visit to the Transport Ministry and attended part of a regular weekly meeting of its planning committee chaired by Minister of Transport Salman Al Tarawneh and attended by senior ministry officials.

Later, Dr. Majali called at the Ministry of Communication and Postal Affairs where he met with Minister Tareq Suheilat, the ministry's secretary general. The prime minister reaffirmed the government's interest in applying a decentralised system to facilitate matters for public and save people time and expenses.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Minister, Pakistani officials discuss health cooperation

AMMAN (Petra) — Health Minister Abdul Rahim Malhas Sunday discussed with two visiting secretaries of health in the Pakistani Federal and Punjab states, Ahmad Rashid Sediqi and Tareq Haroun, health issues and means of developing health cooperation. The two Pakistani officials will acquire first-hand information about the Quality of Life Project in Jordan, in an attempt to utilise it in their country. The project is being carried out by the Ministry of Health and Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF), in cooperation with the World Health Organisation (WHO).

Youth minister returns from Lebanon

AMMAN (Petra) — Youth Minister Abdullah Oweidat Sunday returned home after a five-day visit to Lebanon during which he attended the inauguration of the Arab Youth Festival, in which Jordan, along with other Arab countries, participated. Dr. Oweidat also attended the meetings of the Executive Bureau of the Council of Arab Ministers of Youth and Sports. The three-day meetings focused on means of financing the council's fund and reconstructing sports installations and facilities in Lebanon.

Industry raw materials meeting to begin

AMMAN (Petra) — University of Jordan President Fawzi Gharaibeh today (Monday) will open the first international conference on raw materials used in industry. The four-day conference, organised by the Jordan Engineers Association (JEA), in cooperation with the University of Jordan, seeks to shed light on the importance of using local raw materials in national industries and its socio-economic effects on Jordan. It will also discuss the possibility of using local raw materials instead of imported raw material in Jordanian industries. The conference will discuss 33 working papers presented by Jordanian and Arab researchers. The papers deal with a wide range of subjects including the availability and sites of raw materials in Jordan, transfer of technology, raw materials used in construction, case studies, strategies of scientific research and quality control. An exhibition of national industries will be held on the sideline of the conference.

HCST chief, Japanese officials review cooperation

AMMAN (Petra) — Secretary General of the Higher Council of Science and Technology Hani Al Mulki, who is also President of the Royal Scientific Society (RSS), Sunday met with a delegation from the Japanese Agency for International Cooperation (JICA) and discussed with them scopes of cooperation between the agency and the Jordanian scientific and technical institutions. He thanked the Japanese government for its technical assistance to the RSS. Dr. Mulki noted in particular JICA's contribution to the establishment of the Electronic Services and Training Centre and the Computer Technology and Training Centre, which is designed to serve as a regional training centre. The two sides also discussed means of developing advanced computer training packages.

Trade unions official calls for statistics centre

AMMAN (Petra) — Deputy Secretary General of the General Federation of Jordanian Trade Unions (GFJTU) Mazen Maatih Sunday called

Arafat seeks Arab endorsement of deal

(Continued from page 1)

Most Arab countries recognise Mr. Arafat as president of Palestine and treat him as a head of state.

Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Al Hariri, who said Saturday the PLO had damaged the Palestinian cause by not briefing the other Arabs on the agreement, had talks with Mr. Khaddam in Damascus on Sunday, SANA said. It gave no details.

Mr. Arafat has asked to meet opposition leader George Habash of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) but PFLP sources said a meeting was very unlikely.

Libya and Iran denounced the PLO-Israeli agreement. Libya

said the only just solution was the old PLO ideal of a single state including both Jews and Arabs.

"Such a deal does not achieve a just and permanent peace, which can only be based on the establishment of a democratic Palestinian state in which Palestinians and Jews live together... without that there will not be peace," the official Libyan news agency JANA said.

In a speech on Sept. 1, Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi said: "What is going on in Palestine now is not peace."

The Arab-Israeli confrontation is over Palestine and not the Gaza Strip or the West Bank. The PLO's programme includes Jaffa, Acre and Tel Aviv."

Aqaba Hotel to be replaced with new 4-star facility

By Elia Nasrallah
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — In six to nine months, 32-year-old Aqaba Hotel, owned and operated by the Social Security Corporation (SSC), is to be torn down to make way for the construction of a four-star 350-room hotel, according to SSC Director General Mohammad Saleh Al Hourani.

"We are building a modern hotel with 270 double and 70 single rooms, as well as 10 business suites on the same spot as the beach front Aqaba Hotel at a cost of JD 12 million," said Mr. Hourani in a statement to the Jordan Times.

The SSC has already begun preparing designs and blueprints for the new hotel, he added.

Remarkably the new hotel will take three years to complete. Mr. Hourani said the larger facility was needed to cope with the increasing demand for accommodations in the resort city, which, he said, is crowded with visitors during the height of the tourist season.

Lately, Aqaba has witnessed

growing tourism activity with visitors coming from Jordan and abroad, he added.

Mr. Hourani said the new hotel is to be set up on 34 dunums with 237 metres of beach front.

According to Nasser Kawar, owner of the Petra Travel and Tourism Company (Petra Tours), Aqaba is especially crowded with visitors during public holidays in Jordan and in the spring, winter and autumn.

He told the Jordan Times that there is no doubt that once a Middle East peace agreement is reached the port city and the whole of Jordan will witness greater numbers of tourists coming to the Kingdom.

The Ministry of Tourism expects that tourism in Jordan during 1993 will register a 15 per cent increase over 1992.

Tourism in general, particularly in Aqaba, suffered severely during the Gulf crisis when the industry came to a near standstill in the entire region.

According to ministry estimates, the Kingdom sustained \$230 million in lost tourism business during that crisis.



Aqaba's beaches attract vacationers almost all year round, with peak seasons in August, winter and spring (Staff photo by Aynsley Floyd)

Chilean foreign affairs official to arrive for 2 days of talks

AMMAN (J.T.) — The undersecretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Chile, Rodrigo Diaz Albonico will arrive in Amman Saturday (Sept. 11) on a two-day official visit of Jordan and will deliver a message to His Majesty King Hussein from the Chilean president.

Chilean Ambassador to Jordan Nelson Haddad Heres told the Jordan Times Sunday that the envoy will also meet with Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Talal Al Hassan and Minister of Industry and Trade Bassam Al Saker.

Discussions will cover political, cultural and economic matters with a special focus on the Middle East peace process and ways of bolstering Chilean-Jordanian ties, said the ambassador.

He said that Mr. Albonico, who will be accompanied on the visit by an official delegation, will also familiarise himself with the political developments in the Middle East and the political pluralism and democratic process in the Kingdom.

Meanwhile the Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported Sunday that a Chilean tourist delegation will arrive here on Oct. 6 at the

invitation of the Ministry of Tourism.

The delegation, which will be led by the director of the Chilean Tourist Department, will tour archaeological sites and other places of interest, according to a programme prepared by the ministry. The tour will take the group to the ancient Nabatean city of Petra, the Greco-Roman city of Jerash and the Dead Sea among other attractions.

Discussions during the visit, said the ministry, will focus on prospects of organising group visits and bilateral cooperation in tourism, said Petra.

Workshop reviews U.N.- sponsored complementary irrigation project

AMMAN (Petra) — The meagre and limited water resources of Jordan compel the government to seek the most efficient methods

of using available resources, rationing water use and protecting water resources from pollution, said Agriculture Minister Marwan Kamal Sunday.

Addressing the opening of a two-day workshop to discuss progress in the implementation of a regional project on water management, Dr. Kamal said Jordan was adopting the "complementary irrigation method" in order to economise on water consumption in agriculture and obtain a good output of produce.

The workshop has been called to review the results of the first stage of a six-year United Nations-sponsored "regional complementary irrigation project.

Marwan Kamal Sunday

A total of 12 working papers to be reviewed by delegates from the countries involved in the project deal with problems and difficulties facing researchers in waste management.

WHAT'S GOING ON

EXHIBITIONS

★ Art exhibition by Egyptian artist H. Bikar at the Balqa' Art Gallery in Fuheis.

★ Thirty paintings by Amour Onis and Salam Kannan at the Alia Art Gallery.

★ Plastic art exhibition by artists Mohammed Al 'Ameri and Ghassan Abu Laban at the Royal Cultural Centre.

★ New art gallery, "Darat Al Funun," of the Abd Al Hamid Shoman Foundation. Programme includes the permanent exhibition and the "Chair" exhibition in Jabal Luweibeh.

★ Exhibition by Syrian artist Nadih Isma'il at Baladna Art Gallery.

Exhibition of paintings by Jordanian artist Bishara Najjar at Eshebelia Art Gallery, Amra Shopping Centre.

FILM

★ Film entitled "King Kong" at the American Centre at 6:00 p.m.

SEMINARS & LECTURES

★ Lecture entitled: "Political Currents in the Arab World" by Dr. Husni Hamwi, head of the Philosophy Department at the University of Cairo at Abd Al Hamid Shoman Foundation.

★ Session entitled "Mining and Quarrying Activities Impact on Environment and Health" at the Kofer Almu'ni Municipal Council.

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Opinion & Analysis

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation.

Established 1975

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Bridge of trust

AUSTRIAN PRESIDENT Thomas Klestil's visit to Jordan came at a crucial juncture in the history of this region and its relations with the rest of the world.

Vienna is no stranger to the Middle East conflict and has relentlessly contributed to regional and international efforts to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict. Former Austrian leaders Bruno Kreisky and Kurt Waldheim, spared no effort to broker peace between the warring states in the Middle East and offered their country as a venue for many past attempts to bring peace to the area.

In their endeavours for peace, Austria and its people enjoyed the full trust and confidence of peoples and governments, but above all in the Arab World itself.

Vienna's neutrality in the post World War II era, especially in the heydays of the cold war, had granted it a singular position in the undertaking of the cause of peace and progress worldwide. No one can forget the sincere Austrian contributions to adopting global disarmament policies, particularly in the field of nuclear and mass destruction weapons. Likewise, Austria's contributions to bridging the gap between the haves and have-nots in this world were so impressive that they got recognised and rewarded by all states as it was finally decided to have Vienna house the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO). Also in recognition of the growing international stature of Austria, its capital became the third major seat for the United Nations Organisation, after New York and Geneva. Currently Vienna hosts a variety of international organisations, including the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the International Drug Control Programme (IDCP). This is testimony to Austria's record as a catalyst for international cooperation and development.

On the bilateral level, Austria and Jordan have always enjoyed the best of relations that date back to the early 1950s. The Austrian government offered the Kingdom's aircraft sanctuary during the Gulf war and maintained friendly and solid relations with it at a time when we were misunderstood by many others over our position on the Gulf crisis and war.

The understanding and appreciation of that stance by the Austrian government and people will always be remembered by all Jordanians as a major proof of Austrian impartiality in handling international conflicts. The warmth with which President Klestil was received by the King is a token of Jordan's friendship and appreciation for Austria and for what it stands in the Middle East and elsewhere in the world.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA' Arabic daily Sunday welcomed a visit to Jordan by Austrian President Thomas Klestil and said that Jordanians appreciate the Austrian people's friendship and take pride in their president's visit to Jordan. The fact that this is the first trip outside Europe for the president reflects the strength of relations between two countries which have their roots deeply embedded in cultural, political and economic cooperation, said the paper. Not only do the peoples of Austria and Jordan reciprocate each other's respect and affection, they also have common understanding of a host of world and regional issues, said the daily. Jordan appreciates Austria's support for Jordan and its continued assistance in times of need and the Jordanian people take pride in the friendship of the Austrian people who back the Kingdom's efforts to attain peace, security and stability, said the daily. In welcoming the Austrian president, Jordan hopes that the visit would give further momentum to the ongoing efforts to bolster bilateral ties and cooperation in all fields, said the paper.

A COLUMNIST in Sawt Al Shaab daily urged the government to take measures designed to end the existing coordination between the Jordanians and the Palestinians in the light of the Gaza-Jericho first agreement between the PLO and Israel. Salameh 'Ekour said that now that the agreement has become a reality, Jordan should consider placing higher Jordanian national interests above all other considerations. The writer said that Jordan, which has been providing facilities, support and backing for the Palestinians, and shouldering heavy burdens towards enabling the Palestinians to realise their national goals, should now re-examine the situation carefully. The government ought to take extra precautionary measures to fend off any harmful plots that could be concocted behind its back causing harm to its higher national interest, demanded the writer. We do respect the rights of the Palestinian people and that of their legitimate representatives in determining the future of the Palestinian people, provided that this does not infringe on the freedom of the Jordanian people and their right to free decision, said the writer. He said mutual respect of our brother's rights can only bolster future bilateral cooperation at all levels.

New Haiti leader aims to end army violence

By Michael Norton
The Associated Press

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti — New Prime Minister Robert Malval outlined his dream to diplomats: A Haiti where civilians can rule "without having to fear violence by the army."

But the 50-year-old businessman, sworn in Monday in Washington, returns home Tuesday to face soldiers reluctant to allow the return of October of Mr. Malval's boss, ousted President Jean-Bertrand Aristide.

He also must urge lawmakers to approve the separation of the army from the police force, and persuade the coup backers to accept the presence of a 1,000-member U.N. military technical assistance team.

Nonetheless, he sees the possibility of his dream of civilian government without military intervention: "We believe we stand on the threshold," he said.

At his installation Monday in the sweltering Haitian embassy, Mr. Malval gave a stark message to those who may try to block the country's democratic rebirth: "You may kill us but you will never kill the dream of the people of Haiti to get their freedom," Mr. Malval said.

Mr. Aristide, looking on, said: "Today is a sign that the return to democracy will become a reality." He is to return home Oct. 30 under a U.N.-mediated plan agreed to by the army.

Mr. Malval knows how cruel history has been to Haiti since its people staged the modern world's first successful slave rebellion. "Since 1804," he told the Organisation of American States (OAS) late Monday, "The Haitian people have sought to achieve liberty, equality and fraternity."

He pledged to restore human rights, noting an OAS human rights report that found at least

1,500 people have been killed in the 1991 coup overthrowing Mr. Aristide.

Mr. Malval also must attempt to reorganise an economy shattered by nearly two years of international sanctions. The sanctions, intended to pressure the military to restore democracy, were suspended Friday. But economists say their suspension is no cure-all.

"It would be illusory to believe the end of the embargo will put an end to the important economic problems of this country, since all of its resources — natural, material, human and financial have been affected," Central Bank economist Kneser Pharel has told Radio Metropole.

Mr. Malval's incoming cabinet is finding out that its predecessors spent freely despite the suspension of foreign aid, slumping corporate tax receipts and dwindling customs' charges under a flood of contraband.

The military-backed regimes reversed internationally applauded austerity programmes imposed by Mr. Aristide.

Since the coup, high-ranking army officers and bureaucrats have been accused of heavy involvement in contraband operations and of raking off money from state-run enterprises.

"There is corruption from the top of the ladder to the bottom," outgoing Commerce Minister Saideh Laine said earlier this year. The government is by far the biggest employer in Haiti, the Americas' poorest nation.

Sociologist Herard Jadeote, an aide to the military-backed government, said government workers could begin a sabotage campaign if Mr. Malval attempted a purge.

Mr. Malval promised "no

witch-hunt" of government workers but told parliament last week that bureaucrats must prove their competence.

Weekly Political Pulse

By Waleed Sadi

The Oslo deal — federation, but with who?

into the overall scheme.

Reading through the fine lines in His Majesty King Hussein's television interview with Ghassan Twimi a few days ago, one senses the bitter disappointment of the Jordanian side over the way the PLO kept Amman in the dark. And when the Monarch declares that "we reject any agreement to which we are not a party and any imposition of such agreement on us," it becomes amply clear that while accepting the prerogative of the Palestinians to make their own independent decisions, the extent of the Jordanian support to their deal will not go as far as the level where it may affect Jordan itself, one way or another.

This is in essence a conditional acceptance or endorsement of the PLO-Israeli agreement including its protocols notwithstanding His Majesty King Hussein's declaration Saturday that Jordan supports fully the Oslo accord. Many observers saw an expression of a complete turn about in King Hussein's press conference at the Royal Palace. I do not see a substantive difference between what the monarch had said earlier on the subject and what he enunciated Saturday. On both occasions, King Hussein expressed total support for an independent Palestinian decision but did not conceal his disappointment at the fact that the details of the agreement was not revealed to him in due course. Now that the official text of the agreement was disclosed to Jordan Friday, the King found also the contents of the accord generally acceptable not so far as they affect to Jordan but rather as far as they offer good possibilities for peace between the Palestinians and the Israelis especially when it became clearer than ever that the Gaza-Jericho deal is only the beginning of the process for the implementation of Resolution 242 on the entire West Bank including East Jerusalem.

In retrospect, the region had a hint of where the Kingdom, really stands on the Palestinian-Israeli accord earlier when Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali stated Thursday that the agreement "would not hurt Jordan." "On the contrary," the Prime Minister went on to say, "it will provide an opportunity for Palestinian refugees since 1967 to return to the West Bank." Dr. Al Majali had in mind the hundreds of thousands of Palestinians that could be affected by the provisional consent of Israel to repatriate them. Suffice to recall that the return of Palestinian refugees and expellees in such big numbers would change not only the economic climate in the country but also the political.

The strain of the Oslo accord on the Jordanian-Palestinian relations would remain with us for a while at least. The immediate reaction of Jordan was to withdraw the "umbrella" formula that facilitated the participation of the Palestinians in the peace process. Actually this decision is a natural result of the Oslo accord which rendered the umbrella scheme redundant after it was overtaken by the recent developments. This leaves the Jordanian-Palestinian relations in need for intensive care notwithstanding the rhetoric to the contrary. The PLO needs to take the sincere initiative for healing the wounds and Jordan can be expected to respond in kind in due course.

LETTERS

History behind Oslo accord

To the Editor:

I think many would agree that the Jordan Times has always been the best source of balanced and in-depth news and analyses in Jordan.

After reading Rami Khouri's column, "Jericho-Gaza — a small triumph to build on" (Aug. 31), and Lannis Andoni's article, "Arab is taking new risk for peace — the question is: Will it work?" (Sept. 2-3), I feel compelled to write on the issue in question. There is no doubt that the quick events of an unexpected breakthrough between the PLO and the Israelis is history in the making, to say the least. Hence, it should be looked upon from a historical point of view by connecting the news of the breakthrough with events that preceded it. To do that, one can go back as far as one chooses in the history of the whole issue. Let me recall some events since the Madrid Conference, which was another major historical event:

The Palestinians went to Madrid reluctantly and under very difficult conditions and pressure from many sides, including Arab parties under one major pretext: that the longer Arabs in general and Palestinians in particular waited, the less they would get from Israel due to the new international circumstances of the "new world order," among other reasons.

It was obvious from the beginning of the Madrid process that the measure of success or failure of the Arab negotiators would mainly depend on the amount of their real coordination or lack of it. It was equally obvious from the start, as is now, that this coordination was at a minimal level, as His Majesty King Hussein confirmed during his most recent interview with Mr. Ghassan Twimi.

Several times prior to the rounds of negotiations in Washington the Palestinians were reluctant to continue the talks, particularly in the ninth round after Israel deported some 400 Palestinians to south Lebanon. To suspend Arab participation then would have been universally acceptable, thus forcing Israel to re-approach the negotiations, setting a precedent for Israel to give in to international legitimacy and pressure, and improving the Arab negotiator's position. Instead, the Palestinian team was once again pressured from every direction, including from some of its Arab partners, to go back to Washington.

The last few months witnessed the near destruction of the PLO, again as a result of political and financial pressures from the many sides, including Arab ones, and it reached a point of numerous resignations from within the organisation and deepening the internal rifts.

The secret talks between the PLO and Israel were carried out in Europe, which has major interests in the Middle East and was eager to play an active role in the peace process since the beginning, but, like the U.N., was kept away by the Americans. The Europeans, anyway, had always been more balanced than the U.S. ever was when it came to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict.

Therefore, to be fair to everybody, thing should be put in perspective and one major question should be asked before the real reasons behind Mr. Arafat's taking a new risk for peace?

Victor Hugo's character (Jean Valjean), committed the crime of stealing and was judged and sentenced without considering what he stole and, more importantly, why? And what would Washington have thought that is better than what came out of Europe?

Many other questions, including the timing and sequence of events, if asked, would surely explain the logic behind making such a decision.

In the end, may I say that Mr. Khouri's column was always of great interest to me and rarely failed to express my views and feelings. Ms. Andoni is also certainly commendable for her balanced and in-depth analyses and for her professionalism. I would like to thank you for having such high calibre journalists and writers among your staff.

Mohammad Atiyeh,
Amman.

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.

"As AIPAC ponders the prospect of lobbying to win congressional support for a U.S. grant to finance a PLO-led interim government in Gaza and West Bank, one of its leaders expressed... his realisation of the dramatic effect of this earthquake. Arab Americans, in an entirely different way, are preparing for a new political reality. Will this agreement, they wonder, open doors in Washington that have until now been closed."

What are they asking, are the new challenges and new opportunities that this now accord will bring?"

American Jews are also experiencing an internal debate. They were ill-prepared for the earthquake. The American Likudniks were schooled for many years to view any interaction with the PLO as taboo and "anti-Israel."

Palestinian nationalism was similarly viewed as unspeakable. To see major American Jewish leaders, therefore, praising the wisdom and courage of Rabin for having talked with PLO is, to say the least, rather startling.

While such a view is to be expected from the Americans for Peace Now and even the American Jewish Congress, it is interesting to note that AIPAC is organising a campaign to "sell" the agreement to the Jewish community in order to counter expected opposition from their right-wing elements. Given recent upheavals within AIPAC, this agreement can help both to transform the organisation, solidify the position of its new pro-Labour President Steven Grossman and convince the Rabin government of its loyalty.

American supporters of Labour, even those within AIPAC, are therefore deeply invested in making this agreement work. If it succeeds, they (like Rabin) will win their battle with the right. If it fails, they (like Rabin) will lose their hard-earned leadership within the community.

Some of the "ifs" can only be resolved by Palestinians and Israelis: final agreement on language, stable guarantees that the first phase will lead to a second phase and to a just and lasting resolution to the conflict, an effective Palestinian administration that provides jobs, opportunities, improvement of daily life and greater security, an honest Israeli commitment to honour the accords in letter and spirit and the spirit of the peace process.

Yet, even after this, real issues will remain. Among them are Palestinian refugees in neighbouring Arab states and the significant "final status" issue of Jerusalem and the status of Israeli settlements.

But in the midst of the shock of the "agreement" there is the dawning of a new awareness that, with peace, a stable interim period of real development and genuine progress, many issues that today seem insoluble will be solved as trust and confidence increase. It is in this context that this "agreement" is supportable. It, in and by itself, is not a peace process, but delineates a process for hard work that can make peace a reality by transforming

the Middle East.

And even as we face the new challenges, we can do so with a renewed sense of purpose.

The writer is president of the Washington-based Arab American Institute. He contributed this article to the Jordan Times.

U.S.-Russian space station will cost America some prestige and jobs

By Harry F. Rosenthal

The Associated Press
WASHINGTON — The new U.S. and Russian space alliance may rescue the space station programmes of both nations but at a cost of American prestige and some jobs.

The two nations have settled on a joint venture that will allow American astronauts to spend a total two years' time on the orbiting Mir space station and put U.S. experiments on Russian craft. It also calls for mutual development of an electrical power system to replace damaged space station solar arrays.

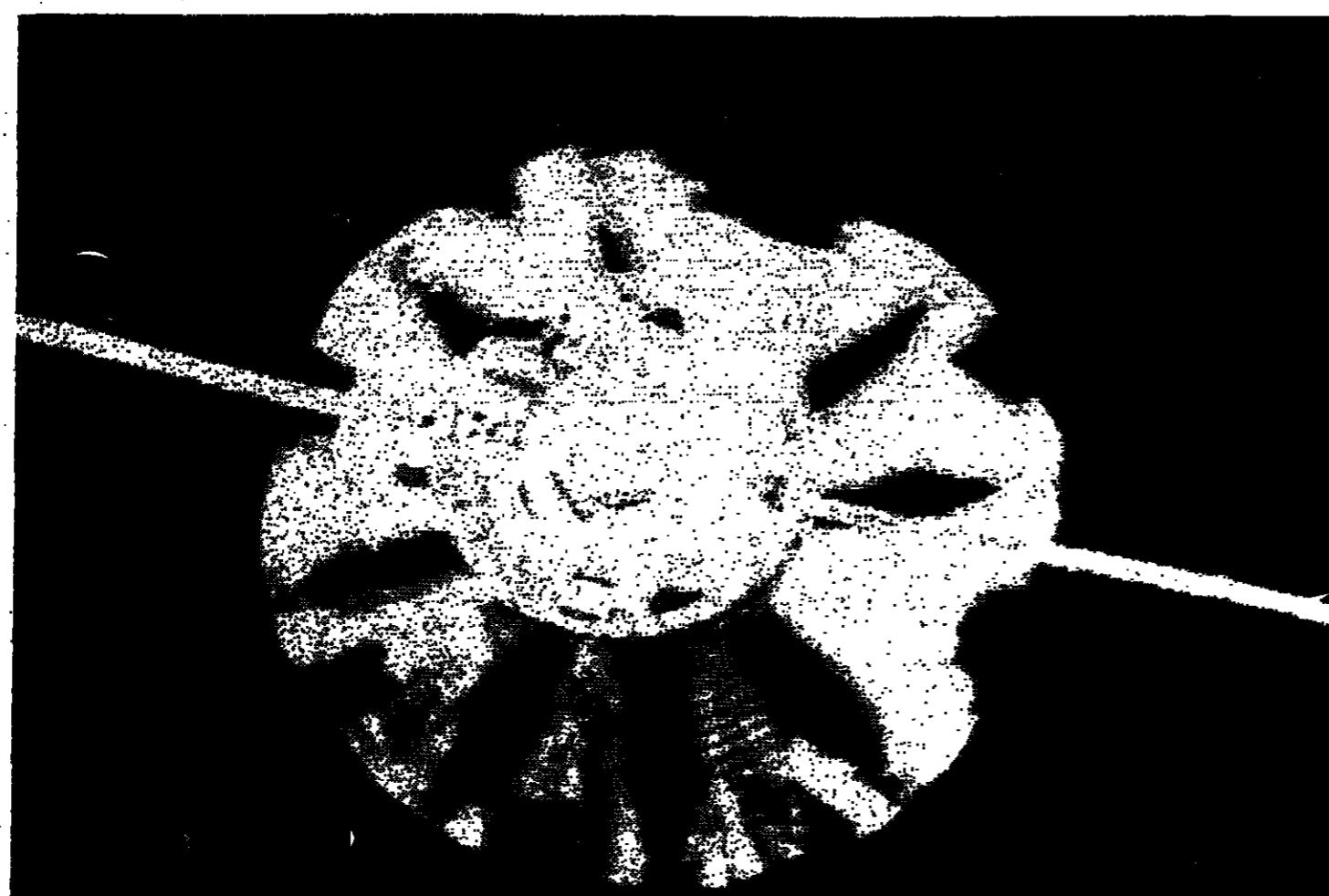
"It is the intent of the U.S. and Russia to undertake a cooperative human space flight programme," according to a statement issued following two days of meetings between Vice President Al Gore and Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin.

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and the Russian Space Agency were instructed to develop a detailed plan of activities by Nov. 1 that then will be cemented with specific agreements.

The agreement marks a significant change in U.S. space policy, which since the 1950s has been driven by achieving preeminence over the former Soviet Union in rocketry and space exploration.

And it marks another turn in the long road to build space station Freedom, the Reagan-era scheme that already has cost \$9 billion and which has been a subject of scorn in much of the U.S. scientific community and hostility in a cost-conscious Congress. Freedom was scheduled for construction in earth orbit by the end of the decade.

"The combined space station will be significantly better than any of the options we could orbit on our own," Mr. Gore said at Thursday's signing ceremony. He said the new station also would be less expensive and would fly



The transport spacecraft Progress, with a solar sail from the orbital Mir station, conducting an experiment. Americans

sooner than Freedom.

NASA administrator Daniel Goldin said: "A new partnership in space between two former adversaries offers considerable economic advantages for both countries."

Mr. Goldin said: "Russian participation will not have a significant impact on U.S. jobs" but conceded "there will be areas where we rely on proven Russian

want to join the Russians in a bid to rescue the space station programmes of both nations (AFP photo)

built the modules but don't have money for the instruments and experiments to use them.

A major concession by the United States calls for the two nations to "operate in an orbit which is accessible by both U.S. and Russian resources."

That means some launches from Russia's space port at Baikonur, which puts spacecraft into orbits much farther north

and south than from the United States. NASA generally flies the shuttle in orbits at a 28.5 degree angle from the Equator. In order to power its way into the Russian orbit of 51.6 degrees, the space shuttle has to reduce its cargo weight by 5,455 kilos — roughly one fourth.

The weight loss consequences will be felt in reduced cargo on construction flights from the Un-

Kuwaiti rolling pigeons command sky-high prices

By Inas Ersan

Reuter

KUWAIT — Acrobatic pigeons are all the rage in Kuwait where "rollers" — birds that stage reverse somersaults in flight — are worth their weight in gold.

"She's just like a dancer," quipped owner Walid Al Dughaishem as one of his birds fluttered high above the Kuwaiti desert and then slowed, as if taking a deep breath.

The bird started rolling backwards, repeatedly revolving in a clear blue sky while its wings made rapid, sharp claps. Seconds later it resumed its normal flight.

Mr. Dughaishem, a fireman and a fancier in one of the Gulf's most popular hobbies,

was impressed.

"A brilliant woman dancer can give a new meaning to your life, and so can a pigeon," he said. "This is an art."

More than 4,000 Kuwaitis raise pigeons, mostly for the pleasures of developing and watching their acrobatic ability — a genetic characteristic cultivated through breeding.

Pigeon raising here dates back to earliest times but the practice has grown in recent decades because oil wealth has prompted an enthusiastic private market in the birds.

Like fanciers in dozens of other countries, Kuwaitis also breed homing pigeons for racing and "fancy" pigeons for beauty.

But acrobatic birds, especially the "galab" (roller) that

tumbles backwards claws-over-beak, are by far their favourites. The best are the stars of competitions held every winter.

Kuwaitis think less highly of other pigeon breeds that twist like a corkscrew in flight or tumble as if hit by a bullet.

The revolving pigeons they have in Europe are beginners. They are not the type we want because they do not play the games we want," said leading breeder Mohammad Al Hamad.

Kuwaitis say they obtained the best "rollers" from enthusiasts in the Iraqi region of Al Zubair about 40 years ago. They went on to corner the market in the region's best breeds.

The hobby can be a profit-

able business. Kuwaitis will pay 4,000 dinars (\$13,000) for the privilege of owning a galab with a particular flair to its odd-looking reverse somersaults.

"Pigeons are just like kids," said Mr. Walid. "The first time they go out they try to come back, but they get lost. After they become familiar with a place, it becomes easier."

Enthusiast Radwan Al Obeid said he had bought a pigeon for 4,000 dinars last year. "I wouldn't sell it for less than 5,000 dinars (\$16,500)," he said.

Mr. Walid and his civil servant brothers Jamal and Tareq keep about 1,000 birds in a 5,000-square-metre smallholding in the desert near Kuwait city.

Getting lost can be the main problem for young birds in the featureless, snooker-table flatness of Kuwait's desert.

Others simply drop dead, roasting in their cages by summer heat that can rise over 50 degrees Centigrade (122 Fahrenheit) or exhausted by flying in the oven-like temperatures.

"The stronger the wind the

better the flying," said Mr. Hamad.

"A good pigeon moves forward steadily into the wind while revolving. It must also lean sometimes to the left and sometimes to the right, and making a clapping sound with its wings."

"The normal wind speed should be between 25 and 70 kilometres per hour. If there wasn't this force of wind there would be no difference between a one dinar (\$3.3) pigeon and a 10,000 dinar (\$33,000) one."

Breeders fuss constantly about the birds' health. One once sent an ailing star performer to bird specialists in Europe. Another rented an air-conditioned apartment to house pigeons weakened by summer heat.

Breeders investigate the birds' bloodline thoroughly and even compile books of pigeon family trees.

Even the teachers do not trust public schools

By George F. Will

SAN DIEGO — In November, California, frequent incubator of America's future, will conduct a vote eclipsing in importance last year's basal presidential choice. If passed, Proposition 174 will offer parents vouchers worth at least half the cost of educating a child in a public school (currently \$5,200) and redeemable as private school tuition. If the chosen school costs less than \$2,600, the saving can be used for subsequent grades, or for college.

Private schools often get better results (gauged by test scores and graduation rates) than public schools, but cost less per pupil than public schools. So the larger the number of Californians who would use Proposition 174 vouchers to choose private schools, the more the state would save. Furthermore, Proposition 174 would spur creation of schools at a time when California's burgeoning school-age population requires, if class sizes are to be maintained, creation of a 600-pupil school every day for 10 years.

Inflation-adjusted public education spending per pupil has about doubled every 20 years since 1945. San Diego teachers' salaries doubled in the last decade, and top administrators average \$30,000 a year. Many who supported forced

reduction of racial balance were liberals with children in private schools; many who oppose making school choice available to all parents are themselves parents choosing private schools (the Clintons, for example).

Nationwide, about half of all urban public school teachers with school-age children send their children to private schools. If (the data are being compiled) the percentage of California public school teachers sending their children away from public schools is higher than the percentage of the general population doing so, supporters of Proposition 174 can ask: What do teachers know about the public schools that voters ought to bear in mind in November?

Opponents of Proposition 174 have sunk to what can best be called boring hysteria. For example, Kathleen Brown, the Democrat's probable gubernatorial nominee, warns darkly that a "witches' coven" is talking about starting a school funded by Proposition 174 vouchers. And a hysteria-monger on the side of the California Teachers Association says that in private schools "a science course could be teaching kids how to make Molotov cocktails."

Actually, what the union calls "unregulated and unaccountable voucher schools" would not devastate public education. Mr. Khachigian can rest his case on that assertion, the NEA's damning assessment of public education — Washington Post.

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ILO: More part-time workers, slim benefits

WASHINGTON (R) — One out of every seven workers in industrialised nations holds a part-time job, most of them women and many without the benefits or protection given to full-time employees, a U.N. agency said Sunday.

About 60 million people work part-time in industrialised countries, the International Labour Organisation (ILO) said in an analysis of the comparatively recent trend in employment. In some nations, 25 per cent of workers hold part-time jobs.

"Until a few decades ago, it used to be assumed the vast majority, if not all workers, would automatically conform to the standard full-time working pattern," the agency said in a report.

The growth of part-time work in the industrialised countries has coincided with the rise in women's labour market participation rates over recent decades and the increasing employment share of the service sector," the report said.

More than 25 per cent of working women hold part-time jobs, compared to four per cent of men in the 24 industrialised nations in the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). OECD members include United States, Canada, Japan, Australia, New Zealand and most of western Europe.

While part-time work offers the benefit of workplace flexibil-

ity, allowing people extra time for professional or family goals and giving employers greater ability to match staffing with workloads, it can fall short in wages and worker protection, said Vittorio Di Martino, an ILO labour expert.

Many social security systems are targeted toward full-time workers and often set thresholds on hours that must be worked in a week in order to be eligible for benefits.

As a result, part-time workers "may be fully out or partly out of the system," Mr. Di Martino said in an interview.

"While the majority of part-time workers that way voluntarily, many are forced to accept part-time jobs because of a lack of full-time opportunities, which reflects the persistently weak job market in the industrialised world," ILO Director General Michel Hansen said in a statement.

ILO has recommended part-time and temporary workers should be given job-security and social security benefits equivalent to full-time workers, although entitlement can be pro-rated.

"As a group, part-time workers receive lower rates of pay in most countries than full-timers," the report said, although there is a small movement in labour contracts for equal hourly rates.

Lower wages are due partly because part-timers most frequently are hired for low-pay work but also because they rarely

qualify for overtime pay, premiums for working on holidays or training allowances.

The number of women who are part-time workers in industrialised nations ranges from 90 per cent in Belgium and Germany to around 65 per cent in Italy, Greece and the United States, the report said.

Between 1979 and 1990, proportion of part-time workers in the workforce rose in most industrialised countries. Highest rates are found in the Netherlands, where one-third of all workers are part-timers, and Norway, where 26 per cent are.

In Canada, United States and the Nordic countries, there are signs the part-time employment peaked in 1982-1983 and has fallen or, in the case of Canada, levelled off.

Statistics about part-time work are scarce outside developed nations, the ILO report said, but part-time work seems to be increasing globally. There is some evidence, it said, that part-time work in Latin America has reached the same level as in some European nations.

U.S. Labour Secretary Robert Reich, in a recent speech, noted the role part-time work has assumed in the tepid U.S. economy. One-quarter of the private-sector jobs created in the first half of this year went to part-time workers, he said.

"Offering none of the job security American workers once took for granted."

Earnings growth of most Asian airlines to accelerate — report

SINGAPORE (AFP) — Most Asian airlines, whose earnings have dropped over the last three years, are poised to reap the benefits of resource-pooling and curtailed expansion plans, according to an industry report released here Sunday.

Income growth should also accelerate with the opening up of high growth markets in China, Vietnam and India, according to the report released by the Singapore-based Merrill Lynch International Bank Ltd.

Excluding Japan, where carriers are suffering from high costs and economic recession, "we view the prospects of Asian airlines very positively," the report said as it rated Singapore Airlines the "favourite" followed by Hong Kong-based Cathay Pacific.

The global airline industry suffered its third straight year of recession in 1992, posting a reported \$10 billion in net losses with U.S. airlines the biggest losers.

European carriers also took heavy losses but Asia-Pacific carriers generally remained profitable, despite some profit shrinkage.

The Merrill Lynch report said that over the next few years Asian airlines would devote their resources to serving the "new, significant and fast-growing"

Chinese, Indian and Vietnamese markets as well as South Korea and Taiwan.

The growth rate of Chinese Airlines' air traffic would also increase, even though the Civil Aviation Authority of China (CAAC) would like to see more controlled expansion for safety and security reasons, the report said.

"We think that a combination of strong demand and greater autonomy of Chinese airlines not under the CAAC's control will push the growth rate significantly higher than CAAC's forecast" of 15.3 per cent in 1993 from 32.9 per cent in 1992, it said.

The report said India's civil aviation market should also begin

Two Indian banks merge

NEW DELHI (AFP) — A perennially loss-making Indian government bank has been merged with another state-owned bank in the first amalgamation of its kind, the Federal Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said in a statement published Sunday. The New Bank of India (NBI), whose accumulated losses total \$57.3 million, was merged with the cash rich Punjab National Bank (PNB) Sunday with immediate effect, the Indian Express and other newspapers said. "The overall financial position of NBI has been causing concern to the government... and different options were under active consideration for some time," the RBI statement said. The finance ministry eventually decided to merge NBI into PNB, which earned an operating profit of \$86 million in fiscal 1992-93. The merger marked the first of two state run banks in India. The PNB, one of the country's oldest banks, has taken over five private banks since 1951.

THE BETTER HALF. By Glasbergen



"I thought about getting you pearls, but a candy necklace has prettier colors!"

JUMBLE

THAT SCRABLED WORD GAME by Henn Arnold

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

GIMAC

TURNS

CAHBLE

RESPON

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer: "DOCTOR."

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumble: AVAIL BOWER HAMMER BEWAIL

Answer: How you might announce the birth of a son to your friends—BY HEIR MAIL

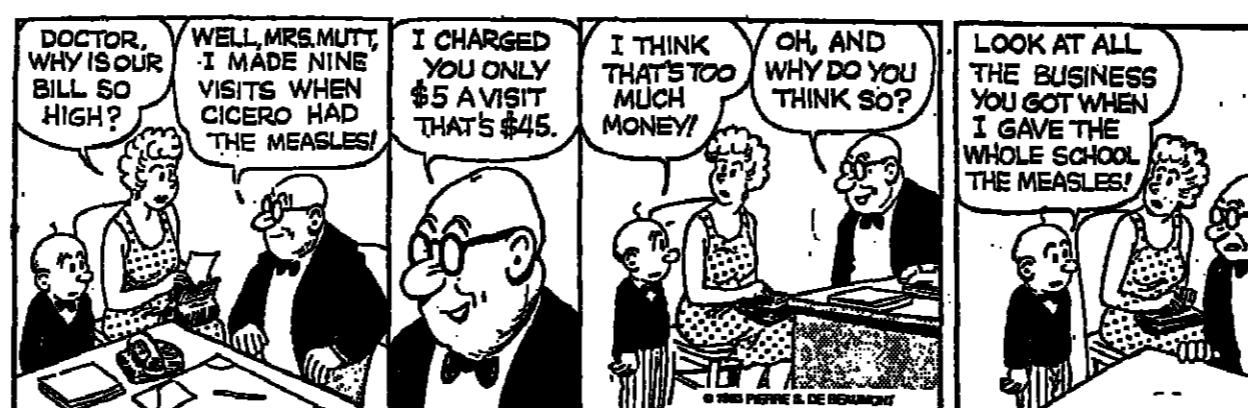
Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



Outlook dire for Europe's car makers

FRANKFURT (R) — Europe's car makers face at least 12 more months of anguish as failing sales signal more job cuts and plant closures, industry analysts said Sunday.

They said European manufacturers, gathered in Frankfurt for the biennial international car show this week, are unlikely to see an upturn until autumn 1994 at the earliest.

Car sales have declined as recession tightened its grip on western Europe and experts believe manufacturers will be forced to shut factories and fire workers on an unprecedented scale.

Some expert analysts believe that up to 150,000 jobs are in jeopardy across Europe.

Things have gone wrong with bewildering speed. Only last year sales hit a record 13.5 million after accelerating smoothly through the eighties, from just over 10 million in 1984.

"We have never seen the sort of collapse in demand we are seeing now in the western European car market. It's down by 20 per cent at the half year point in terms of new car sales," said John Lawson, research director

at DRI/McGraw Hill in London. A recent DRI survey predicted that sales would dive to 11.3 million in 1993, before struggling back slightly to 11.7 million next year, and 12.5 million in 1995.

Other projections are more negative. The motor industry Research Unit (MIRU) in Norwich, England sees sales of only 11.2 million in 1994.

"We expect a much longer and deeper recession than DRI. We think it will be 1996 or 1997 before we approach 1992 levels again," said MIRU director Krish Baskar.

And the industry's finances are under pressure. Of the "big six" mass car makers, only General Motors Europe is expected to break even in 1993. Germany's Volkswagen, Renault and Peugeot of France, Italy's Fiat, and Ford Europe will all be losing money.

The slump in car sales reflects the deepening recession and burgeoning unemployment in Germany, Europe's biggest car market, France and Italy.

Only Britain, an early recession victim, has started to recover. In the rest of Europe many in

work fear for their futures. The sales slump has already led to job cuts and plant closures. More are on the cards.

"Over the next 12 months we can expect a substantial reduction in the European industry's workforce, additional plant closures, and further consolidation in the industry with the full merger of Renault and Volvo," says Jonathan Storey, director of England-based European Auto-motive Research.

Karl Ludvigsen, managing director of Euromotor Reports, believes that job losses across Europe will have to reach 150,000, because of the contraction in sales, and the need to cut costs and counter competition from Japan.

"Fifty thousand to 70,000 more jobs will go in Germany — and you can double that for the rest of Europe," said Bob Bucknell, investment analyst at London stockbrokers Carr, Kitcat and Aitken.

The sales crisis is also causing manufacturers to move down market as wary consumers become more practical in their choice of car. Even luxury mak-

ers like BMW and Mercedes have announced plans to sell mini cars in two or three years time.

Two years ago the biggest attraction at the Frankfurt show was the BMW 8 series sports car. This time around Fiat's down-to-earth small family car the "Punto" is likely to be the most important new car at the show.

"The car companies are moving down market," said MIRU's Baskar. "All manufacturers including specialities are doing this. You're seeing luxury versions of small cars and this trend will be emphasised at Frankfurt," he added.

As well as the "Punto", new cars on show to the public for the first time in Frankfurt include the Saab 900, the aluminium bodied Audi V8, and a restyled Volkswagen Passat.

Mazda unveils its Xedos 9, and Toyota is expected to announce plans to sell the Lexus GS300 in Europe for the first time. Both these Japanese cars will compete at the high end of the executive car class, dominated now by the BMW "5" series.

The show is open to the public from Sept. 9 until the 19th.

Gore report said to target 252,000 federal jobs

WASHINGTON (R) — A cost-saving report due Tuesday from U.S. Vice President Al Gore recommends eliminating more than twice the number of federal jobs already slated to be cut, the Washington Post said Sunday.

The report recommends President Bill Clinton cut 252,000 federal jobs, reducing the civil service by 12 per cent and bringing it below the two million employee mark for the first time since 1966, the Post said citing unnamed sources.

Mr. Clinton earlier this year proposed reducing the federal work force by 100,000.

The newspaper said excerpts from the report "show that the administration intends to dump regulations that affect virtually every corner of the bureaucracy and carve deeply into headquarters staff, supervisors, budget analysts, accountants and procurement and personnel specialists."

The report recommends changes that would ostensibly result in \$105 billion in estimated savings, according to the Post.

Those include \$22 billion gained by changing the method of purchasing supplies and services, \$5.4 billion by modernising government computer and information systems and \$3.3 billion by simplifying paperwork.

Because the administration would probably be unable to meet its job-reduction goal solely through attrition, the Gore report recommends Congress offer early retirement and buyout packages, according to the newspaper.

Poll finds British unions popular

LONDON (R) — British trade unions, weakened by 14 years of Conservative party rule, have as much public support as they did in their 1970s heyday, according to a poll commissioned by the unions themselves.

Eight out of 10 people questioned in the survey agreed unions were necessary to protect workers' interests, a rating slightly up on two years ago and as high as at any time in the last 40 years, the traders union congress (TUC) said Sunday.

"The ratings continue to balance Australia's diverse industrial and natural resource-based economy with high net external debt estimated at 167 per cent of exports this year," S.P. said in a statement. "The change in the rating outlook from negative to stable is based on S.P.'s view that federal government policies will reduce fiscal and balance of payments pressures, with the external debt burden remaining broadly stable over the rest of the decade."

Australia's net foreign debt rose to a record 172.33 billion Australian dollars (\$112 billion) in the June quarter of 1993 from 160.36 billion Australian dollars (\$104 billion) in the March quarter.

However, S.P. said a positive outlook was still some way off.

"Substantial further decline in external debt burden and a narrowing of the gap between domestic saving and investment would be required to strengthen the country's creditworthiness," the ratings agency said.

"Without further policy adjustments these trends are unlikely to occur except in the longer term," it said. "Reforms affecting trade policy, employment practices and the operations of public enterprises are fostering a more dynamic, outward-looking economy but progress has been slow."

Rubber prices, hurt by economic recession and anaemic sales of cars and therefore tyres in industrial countries, have fallen to 30-year lows in real terms.

The aim of the agreement to prevent wild gyrations in rubber prices but producers complain

that the pact works in favour of consumers by stabilising prices at low levels.

Producers, led by Malaysia, have said they will block an automatic two-year extension of the current International Natural Rubber Agreement (INRA).

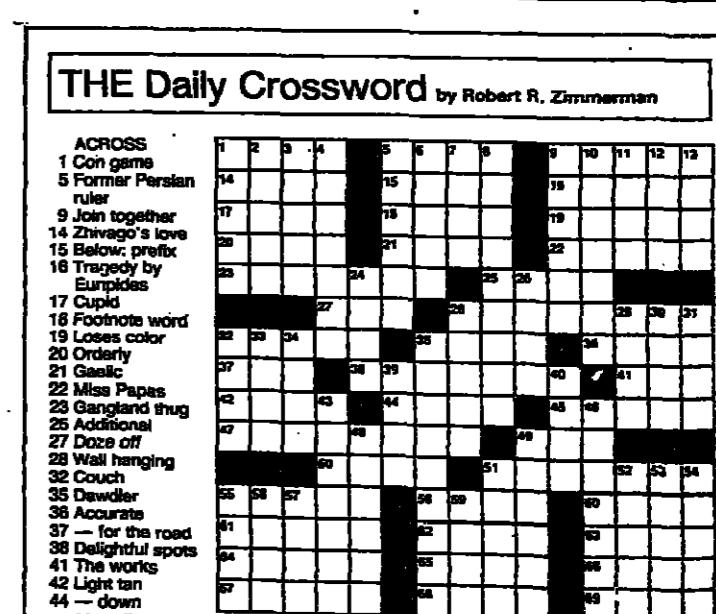
Members of the Association of Natural Rubber Producing Countries (ANRPC) said they have been pushed to threaten to pull out of INRA after two futile years trying to persuade consumers to renegotiate a United Nations-sponsored rubber agreement.

INRA works by collecting money for a stabilisation fund from producers and consumers. It is used to buy or sell rubber when its price hits a specified level on either side of a pre-determined reference price.

At the top end of the price range the buffer stock manager in charge of the funds will sell rubber to push prices down while at the bottom of the range he will push prices up by buying.

THE Daily Crossword

by Robert R. Zimmerman



AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET					
SOCIETY BANK CEFICO, AMMAN, JORDAN					
TELEPHONE: 6501707 / 6521110					
CHARTERED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR SUNDAY 06/09/1993					
COMPANY'S NAME	TRADED VOLUME	PREV. PRICE JD	OPENING PRICE	CLOSING PRICE	PRICE
ABU DHABI	121,210	189.820	170.820	173.000	
JORDAN FINANCIAL BANK	22,120	5.780	5.780	5.780	
NAME OF JORDAN	1,710	4.100	4.050	4.050	
MIDDLE EAST INVESTMENT BANK	6,970	1.960	1.980	2.000	
ESTATE & DEVELOPMENT BANK	2,798	3.950	4.000	4.030	
THE JORDAN BANK	5,520	2.970	2.950	2.950	
JORDAN EQUITY BANK	400	4.000	4.000	4.000	
JORDAN INDUSTRIAL BANK	1,223	3.800	3.850	3.850	
JORDAN INVESTMENT BANK	1,420	3.800	3.800	3.800	
JORDAN BUSINESS BANK	6,200	6.200	6.200	6.200	
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	3,793	4.560	4.580	4.580	
BEST BANKS SAVING & INVESTMENT FOR HOUSING	11,611	2.950	2.950	2.950	
PHILADELPHIA INVESTMENT BANK	7,182	3.750	3.780	3.780	
JORDAN FRENCH INSURANCE	277,454	2.080	2.080	2.100	
JORDAN INTERNATIONAL BANK	1,360	4.000	4.000	4.000	
JORDAN TOURISM & HPA COMPLEX	8,613	0.530	0.540	0.550	
JORDAN PETROLEUM SERVICES	2,166	3.940	3.980	3.980	
JORDAN PETROLEUM SERVICES	29,778	1.700	1.700	1.700	
JORDAN GOLD REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT	1,100	2.000	2.000	2.000	
JORDAN INTERNATIONAL TRADING CENTER	14,120	2.120	2.120	2.120	
UNITED MIDDLE EAST'S COMMERCIAL HOTELS	7,968	2.830	2.860	2.860	
ABU DHABI FOR INVESTMENT & EDUCATION	400	2.000	2.000	2.000	
THE JORDAN CEMENT MANUFACTURING	80,652	14.970	14.950	15.000	
JORDAN PETROLEUM COMPANY	2,742	9.400	9.410	9.500	
JORDAN PETROLEUM COMPANY & AGRICULTURAL	13,758	6.450	6.450	6.450	
THE JORDAN PETROLEUM COMPANY	10,161	10.700	10.700	10.700	
JORDAN PHARMACEUTICAL MANUFACTURING	61,830	8.570	8.580	8.700	
JORDAN CERAMIC INDUSTRIES	3,265	7.460	7.520	7.520	
JORDAN CERAMIC INDUSTRIES	2,293	4.150	4.180	4.180	
JORDAN PAPER & CARDBOARD FACTORIES	1,135	2.120	2.120	2.120	
JORDAN GLASS INDUSTRIES	8,652	8.020	8.120	8.200	
JORDAN DATA DEVELOPMENT & INVESTMENT	1,360	2.360	2.330	2.400	
JORDAN ALUMINUM INDUSTRIES	1,360	2.360	2.330	2.400	
JORDAN MEDICAL CORPORATION	34	0.380	0.380	0.380	
JORDAN STEEL INDUSTRIES	5,923	5.490	5.500	5.500	
JORDAN ELECTRICAL INDUSTRIES	4,850	1.500	1.500	1.500	
JORDAN INDUSTRIES & MATCH JEWELS	2,600	1.980	2.000	2.000	
JORDAN INDUSTRIES & MATCH JEWELS	4,850	1.080	1.080	1.080	
JORDAN CLOTH & WIRE MANUFACTURING	38,478	0.020	0.120	0.200	
JORDAN SULFUR CHEMICALS	8,280	3.450	3.450	3.450	
JORDAN GENERAL PLASTICS & CHEMICALS	7,938	2.500	2.500	2.500	
JORDAN KINAI CO. FOR AGRI. & FOOD PROD.	289	2.750	2.890	2.890	
JORDAN INVESTMENT	19,719	3.580	3.580	3.580	
GRAND TOTAL	1,162,882				
NO. OF TRADES REPORTED IN PARALLEL MARKET	1,4587				
TRADED VOLUME IN THE PARALLEL MARKET	1,35000				

Financial Jordan Times

in co-operation with
Cairo Amman Bank

Foreign Exchange Market Summary (August 30 — September 3, 1993)

AMMAN — Dollar exchange rates witnessed substantial declines against European currencies over the past week due to the release of U.S. economic data with negative results. The U.S. unit, ended the week 2.97 per cent lower against the mark, 1.66 per cent lower against Sterling, while it moved 0.67 per cent higher against the yen.

As London and Hong Kong were closed on holiday Monday, trading was light in New York, as many traders preferred to stay on the sidelines and were reluctant to take new positions. The dollar fell back at the start of trading hours in response to weaker-than-expected U.S. new home sales figures released that day. The dollar managed to finish firmer against European currencies that day, however, but remained unchanged against the yen.

The dollar traded in narrow ranges Tuesday, but closed higher compared to the previous day on stronger-than-expected revised figures for U.S. Gross Domestic Product. Unconfirmed rumours of Bundesbank intervention, selling dollars, halted the dollar's rally. News that the U.S. consumer confidence index slipped further hampered the dollar. But a tiny rise in the Chicago purchasing managers index helped the dollar from falling further. The yen, thus ended at 1.6765 marks, whereas Sterling ended at 1.4919. Meanwhile, the yen weakened against the dollar on rumours that the Bank of Japan may cut the official 2.5 per cent discount rate by as much as 0.75 per cent in late September.

Wednesday, the dollar fell sharply against European currencies, especially the mark. Analysts attributed much of the mark's rise to positive industrial output figures in the western parts of Germany released that day. The dollar also fell back on growing expectations that Friday's U.S. employment report would show negative results. The dollar moved higher against the yen however following continued intervention by the Bank of Japan, in addition to widespread rumours of an imminent cut in the Japanese discount rate.

The dollar witnessed further declines against European currencies for the remainder of the week. Analysts indicated that the mark moved higher against the dollar Thursday on growing beliefs that German interest rates are unlikely to come down in the near future. Comments by Bundesbank officials supporting this view, also dampened expectations of a further narrowing in the interest rate differential between the mark and the dollar in the near term. In addition, the mark benefited from fund flows out of the Belgian franc and into mark assets. Increases in Belgian franc interest rates, orchestrated by the Belgian authorities failed to stabilise the franc within its original 2.25 per cent fluctuation band against the mark, which prompted the safe-haven mark buying activity on speculation that the Belgian authorities will soon abandon their attempts to restore the franc/mark ERM link. On the other hand, continued intervention by the Bank of Japan caused the dollar to move still higher against the yen. The U.S. unit, thus ended at 105.89 yen, its highest for the week.

The U.S. currency fell sharply against the mark and other European currencies Friday. Apart from disappointment with its performance the previous day, dollar sentiment was further hurt following the release of the U.S. jobs data for August, which, despite some positive aspects, showed negative results, causing increased uncertainty over the pace of the U.S. economic recovery.

In the meantime, some observers indicated that improving German economic data would support the German unit, and maintained that the mark should still out-perform other European currencies in the medium term. Others expected that the Fed to ease its monetary policy in response to negative U.S. jobs data. Under the influence of these expectations the U.S. unit closed sharply lower at 1.6160 marks, whereas Sterling ended at \$1.5300.

New York Closing Rates for Major Currencies Against the U.S. Dollar

Currency	27/8/93 Close	3/9/93 Close	Percent Change
Sterling Pound	1.5050	1.5300	1.66 %
Deutsche Mark	1.6640	1.6160	2.97 %
Swiss Franc	1.4665	1.4204	3.39 %
French Franc	5.8255	5.6925	0.21 %
Japanese Yen	103.80	104.50	-0.67 %

USD per SGD

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin Dates: 5/9/1993

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.6880	0.6900
Sterling Pound	1.0522	1.0575
Deutsche Mark	0.4248	0.4269
Swiss Franc	0.4828	0.4852
French Franc	0.1209	0.1215
Japanese Yen	0.6567	0.6600
Dutch Guilder	0.3786	0.3805
Swedish Krona	0.0860	0.0864
Italian Lira	0.0433	0.0435
Belgian Franc	0.01953	0.01963

* For info

Inter-Arab trade plunges

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Trade between Arab countries has plunged over the last two years because of deep rifts caused by the Gulf war, an official report said Sunday.

After 13 per cent growth between 1986 and 1989, inter-Arab trade fell by 14 per cent in 1991 and declined again in 1992, said the Abu Dhabi-based Arab Monetary Fund (AMF).

Trade among Arab countries continued to decline due to the circumstances that accompanied the Gulf war. But its decline in 1992 was lower than in 1991, its report said, without giving a new figure.

The fall occurred at a time when overall Arab trade reached a 10-year high of \$244 billion in 1992, compared with \$230 billion in 1991, as a result of an increase in both exports and imports.

Imports rose by 5.1 per cent to \$107.6 billion and exports by 6.6 per cent to \$136.4 billion. Oil and gas accounted for most of the exports, standing at around \$96

billion. The AMF, the Arab League's main lending institution, said inter-Arab exports stood at only 7.3 per cent of their total exports in 1992 compared with 9.1 per cent in 1989. Imports also dropped to 7.3 per cent from 10 per cent.

"This underlines the need for intensifying efforts to free trade among Arab countries," the report said.

Inter-Arab trade has remained below 15 per cent of the total Arab trade due to political rifts, lack of funds in poor member states and customs barriers which persist despite a 20-year-old agreement on a free trade zone.

The problem was exacerbated by the 1991 Gulf war as dealing was almost crippled by political differences between wealthy Gulf states and Arab countries seen as pro-Iraqi.

The Arab League wants to boost inter-Arab trade as an essential step toward a long-

sought Arab common market. Its calls for boosting trade have intensified because of rising protectionism and the emergence of new world blocs.

"It has become clear that regional blocs worldwide are increasing and will remain the main pillar of the new international trade order," according to AMF Chairman Osama Al Faqih.

"This should prompt Arab states to increase trade cooperation and boost their competitive capability. This could be done through bolstering links within regional Arab groupings with the aim of reaching a common market which will strengthen their negotiating position with world blocs."

The AMF is spearheading the efforts to bolster flagging trade among the League's 21 members and it has created a \$500 million fund for the purpose.

But although it has a financing capacity of \$1 billion a year, the fund has extended only about \$250 million since it was launched in 1992, mainly because they extended more credits and large

imports, JETRO said.

Japanese imports reached 45,594 kilotonnes (10 million gallons) of mineral water, both domestic and foreign, in 1992/93, 24 per cent up on the previous year.

Japanese mineral water consumption remains low by Western standards. Per capita consumption in 1991/92, the latest year for which official figures are available, was 2.8 litres (0.6 gallon), compared with 102 litres (22 gallons) in Italy, 96 litres (21 gallons) in Belgium, 88 litres (19 gallons) in Germany and 77 litres (17 gallons) in France, the JETRO report said.

Nevertheless, JETRO said Japan's per capita consumption could grow to around 10 litres (two gallons) in the foreseeable future.

Arab Gulf banks seen performing better in '93

ABU DHABI (AFP) — The return of overseas funds and a Gulf business boom triggered by high government spending is set to boost profits of banks in the region to a record level in 1993, bankers said Saturday.

Most banks in the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) made record net profits in 1992 due to a fall in interest rates on deposits and a surge in credits and earnings are expected to be higher this year, the bankers said.

There is no doubt most banks will benefit from the economic upswing in the region due to higher government expenditure and a boom in the construction sector in all GCC states, a Saudi bank manager told AFP.

Sihanouk reverses split with U.N.

PHNOM PENH (R) — Prince Sihanouk, in a letter to the United Nations peacekeeping force in Cambodia, has reversed his earlier decision to do more with the international force.

In a separate letter to his son, Co-President Norodom Ranariddh, Prince Sihanouk also sought to make a U-turn on his refusal to return to the Cambodian throne he abdicated in 1955.

Hours after sending off angry acclaims to U.N. peacekeeping chief, Yasushi Akashi and Cambodian political parties, Prince Sihanouk sent conciliatory messages.

"Owing to the affection and gratitude toward Akashi and U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali, I have the honour to tell you I accept to restore relations with UNTAC," Prince Sihanouk said in a faxed letter to Mr. Akashi obtained from the royal palace Sunday.

"I will have the honour to receive you in Peking on Sept. 10," he said in the letter, which

palace sources said responded to a long letter sent by Akashi late Saturday.

Few were surprised by the reversal as Prince Sihanouk, head of state until he resigned the chair of the Supreme National Council Saturday, is given to abrupt changes of heart.

He also has a track record of blurring the boundaries between public and private statements.

A source close to the Sihanouk camp said earlier letters, apparently sent in a fit of pique, were intended to be private although copies were faxed to news agencies in Peking, where Prince Sihanouk is currently in residence.

Prince Sihanouk sent the letters because he was upset by news reports that foreigners, including officials of the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC), had criticised the interim government's intention to restore the monarchy, the source refuted.

"Sihanouk has always been very supportive of UNTAC. He just said if that's the way they

respond maybe I'll let them do the work alone," the source said.

There has been friction between Prince Sihanouk and UNTAC during the international body's presence in Cambodia, where in May it organised democratic elections designed to end 13 years of civil war.

The volatile prince has criticised U.N. officials for meddling in Cambodian politics and trying to shape the government that emerges from the democratic process, for instance by opposing his plan for an interim government.

The U.N. is careful publicly to emphasise Prince Sihanouk's importance for the future of the country, but officials privately express frustration at his frequent political gyrations.

Prince Sihanouk also sent a letter to Prince Ranariddh, his eldest son and a co-leader of the interim government, that took the stuffing out of his earlier refusal to become king.

"I have the right to make requests but I have no right to resist the will of the Cambodian people," he said in the letter.

J.S. Congress returns to face more controversy

WASHINGTON (R) — After ranging most of the year over S. President Bill Clinton's economic plan, Congress returns for a one-month summer recess this week to face more fights over health care and crime.

The Senate reconvenes Tuesday to vote on the nomination of Evelyn Elders as surgeon general of the House of Representatives back Wednesday.

Senate critics of Dr. Elders — outspoken advocate of abortion rights and birth control — they expect her to be confirmed despite their objections.

Mr. Clinton seems sure to face tough battles on other issues. Democrats have a 56-44 majority and control the Senate by 253 to 175 with one independent.

The president's plan to cut the deficit through tax increases and spending cuts passed by two votes in the House and in the Senate just before the g. 5 recess.

Now he wants Congress to ratify the hotly contested North American free trade agreement (NAFTA) — an uphill political fight — reform health care and approve a tough crime bill.

Any one of these would be a major achievement.

"Many people say I'm pushing too hard for change," Mr. Clinton said in a recent broadcast. "I have faith that together we can make real the promise of democracy for all Americans."

The major business for Congress in September will be approving money needed to run government agencies in the fiscal year that begins Oct. 1. Only one of the 13 separate appropriations bills have been passed and there is pressure to make further spending cuts, especially in defense.

Foreign policy will also get plenty of attention. There is growing concern about U.S. military involvement in Somalia and that it can be passed.

"I think in the Senate — I can't speak for the House, where it's probably going to be very close —

we have enough votes if we can furnish 34 or 35 Republicans," Sen. Dole said in a television interview.

Mr. Clinton has also expressed confidence, saying that once members of Congress examine the pact they will support it.

Sen. Dole said he would try to cooperate on health care reform and the crime bill. Mr. Clinton will announce his health programme, put together by his wife Hillary, in about two weeks.

"I want to work with the president where we (Republicans) can," Sen. Dole said. "We've got issues like NAFTA, health care, where we hope we can be helpful."

Both parties want to cut health costs and extend medical insurance to all Americans, but differ on how to do it.

Overshadowing almost every congressional action is the November 1994 election when all 435 House seats and 33 of 100 Senate slots will be at stake.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Supporters of Bhutto, Sharif clash

KARACHI (AFP) — Police were called in to restore order at an action rally held by former Premier Nawaz Sharif when his supporters clashed with workers of his arch-rival, Benazir Bhutto, sources said Sunday. The fighting erupted when the rival Islamic Peoples Party (IPP) workers started chanting anti-Sharif slogans during the election meeting in Ms. Bhutto's home town of Rawalpindi late Saturday, they said. The chanting IPP enthusiasts were attacked by supporters of Mr. Sharif.

Police sources said police intervened with a light baton charge and order was restored when Mr. Sharif took to the dais and asked the disc not to beat the crowd. No one was hurt in the scuffle or the fire action, they added.

China dam collapse toll hits 290

BEIJING (AFP) — The death toll in the Aug. 17 Gouhou Dam disaster has risen to 290, up from the earlier reported 252 dead and 1,100 injured, the People's Public Security News said Sunday. The newspaper, which did not specify whether the new figure was a final count of the victims, said four police were among the dead. Some 400 others were swept away by the dam waters leaving 3,000 homeless, a paper added.

U.S. Sino-British talks end

KING (R) — China and Britain Sunday ended their 10th round of Sino-Hong Kong's political reforms but there was little indication of their outcome. British Ambassador Sir Robin McLaren told reporters outside his residence that the talks only dealt with the issue of Hong Kong's electoral system. "We have been discussing this issue. I do not think I want to say if there was progress or not. I do not want to comment on this issue," said Sir Robin, who is rarely forthcoming about the talks. "I do not think I would like to characterize them but I do not think it would be fair to say they are totally standing still," he said. The British embassy later said in a statement that the 11th round of talks will be held in Peking on Sept. 8 and 9 but gave no further details.

Tsunami typhoon probable toll now 46

KYOTO (R) — Typhoon Yancy tailed off Sunday after lashing Japan for days of violent winds and heavy rains that left at least 46 people dead or presumed dead, police said. At least 37 people were dead, nine unaccounted for and 135 injured in southern Japan, a source said. With the help of power shovels, hundreds of rescue workers continued to search for people buried in a huge mudslide triggered Friday by torrential rains in Kinpo, Kagoshima on the southern island of Kyushu. Of the 20 people trapped in the rubble, 16 had so far been recovered, police said. The others were feared dead.

25 rebel among 25 killed in Kashmir

NEW DELHI, India (AFP) — Indian security forces have shot dead 25 of 25 most wanted Muslim guerrilla leader, police said here but that denied the claim. Ahsan Dar, 36, chief of the outlawed Islamic Mujahideen, was slain in a gunbattle at Tangmarg, 35 metres north of the summer capital of Kashmir state. Inspector General of Police A.K. Suri said. Mr. Dar managed to stagger from the area, but died in neighbouring Phulwama district, Suri said. "He died," the officer said. "But we have not found his body." But Mr. Dar's militant colleagues denied the report, although they themselves admitted earlier in the day that he was dead and poured into the streets of this city firing in the air to denounce the killing. Police said no other militants also died in the Tangmarg gunbattle.

Fifteen arrested in Rio slum massacre

RIO DE JANEIRO (AFP) — A military police captain was arrested Saturday and accused of ordering the massacre of 21 people in a slum in western Rio, police said. A lower-ranking officer was arrested, police said. Authorities announced the arrests of five ranking police officers Friday. The arrests were the first since 20 gunmen armed with assault rifles stormed the Vigario Geral slum in western Rio before dawn August 30 and fatally shot 21 people, many of them in their beds. Police said Captain Aguiaraldo dos Reis had been assigned to protect one of the key witnesses staying who until Thursday was in hospital.

Arms cache found near Managua

MANAGUA (AFP) — Authorities have discovered a huge weapon cache belonging to Guatemalan guerrillas on the outskirts of Managua, the government said Saturday. A Guatemalan and a Guatemalan-born Nicaraguan were arrested near the underground cache on a hilltop outside the capital, said Assistant Interior Secretary Frank Cesar. He said the rebel arsenal, discovered Friday, was perhaps the largest on record in Nicaragua and that President Violante had notified his Guatemalan counterpart, Ramiro De Leon Carpio, about the find. The cache included six rocket launchers, three grenade launchers, 1,000 rifles and machine guns, 100 electronic detonators, five cannons, 22 mortars, an anti-aircraft machine gun and almost a million rounds of various ammunitions, Mr. Cesar said. The weaponry, discovered 12.5 kilometres south of Managua, belonged to the leftwing Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unit, or URNG by its Spanish acronym, Mr. Cesar said.

India to probe U.S. ties with China

NEW DELHI (R) — India and China, whose relations improved decisively after the collapse of the Soviet Union, will discuss ways next week to get along with the United States, diplomats and politicians said Sunday. Indian opposition leaders said they had given a rare unanimous mandate to Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao to improve relations with China during his three-day visit to Peking starting Monday. But, they said, differences over India's future ties with the United States had sharpened recently after Washington pressured Russia to cancel a cryogenic rocket engine deal with New Delhi. The United States also announced sanctions last month against China and Pakistan, charging Peking with transferring forbidden missile technology to Islamabad. Indian analysts said that Washington's move was as arbitrary as its steps against India's rocket deal. "The United States has provided sufficient motivation to India and China to get together in opposing U.S. hegemonism," said K. Subramanyam, a defence expert close to the government.

Fighting breaks out in eastern Liberia

MONROVIA, Liberia (AP) — Fighting broke out in eastern Liberia and has spilled over for the first time into Ivory Coast. The United Nations and the Ivorian interior minister gave conflicting accounts of the skirmishes along the Ivorian border. The differences couldn't be immediately reconciled. A U.N. statement said the clashes, which broke a six-week-old peace pact brokered by the world body, were serious. But Ivory Coast's interior minister, Emile Constant Bombo, said the fighting on the Ivorian border was "an isolated incident" that took place Thursday at a refugee camp of Liberians. Half of Liberia's 3.2 million people are refugees or displaced in their own country.

Hurd could face treason charges

LONDON (AP) — Britain's Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd could face charges of treason for signing the Maastricht Treaty on closer European union, the Sunday Telegraph newspaper reported here. Rodney Atkinson, a businessman and occasional advisor to Conservative ministers, wants to press charges against the foreign secretary at a court hearing in Hexham, northeast England, Thursday, the paper said. Mr. Atkinson, a virulent critic of the European Community, believes Mr. Hurd and Francis Maude, the former junior treasury minister who co-signed the treaty on the government's behalf, could be charged on seven counts under the 1795 treason act, the 1700 act of settlement, the 1953 Coronation Oath Act and case law that no parliament may bind its successor. Mr. Atkinson, who is assisted in his action by a leading member of the right-wing Freedom Association, argues that Mr. Hurd and Mr. Maude have made the queen a citizen of another state (the E.C.), contrary to the Treason Act, and that the British people have, without their consent, been made citizens of another state which can tax them.

Mobutu 'plans election' for December

PARIS (AP) — President Mobutu Sese Seko of Zaire plans to call an election for December and says the prospect of losing power after 28 years doesn't scare him, according to an interview published Saturday. Mr. Mobutu has been the target of a vigorous though divided opposition movement for several years as his country's economy collapsed. Western countries have cut off aid, and he has been forced to share power with his political rival, Prime Minister Etienne Tshisekedi.



FINAL SERVICES FOR MARCOS: A Priest

flanked by the sister of the late Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos, Fortuna Barbero, recites prayers over the open casket of the late president. Preparations began to take Mr. Marcos' body back to the Philippines.

Dozens of people filed by the body of Mr. Marcos.

Saturday during final services in Hawaii. A crowd of about 400 partially filled the auditorium of a local high school in Honolulu to pay their last respects to Mr. Marcos, whose body lay in a black lacquered casket with gold handles on the auditorium stage, surrounded by tropical flowers (AP).

footage of Mr. Yeltsin inspecting troop units near Moscow earlier in the week, reinforcing the image of a tough-minded president confronting a self-serving, incompetent parliament.

Commenting on the legislature's decision Friday to refer his decree suspending Mr. Rutsikoi to the constitutional court, Mr. Yeltsin said only that "this testifies to the fact the Supreme Soviet knows neither the constitution nor the laws."

At the same time, Kremlin aides said they had overcome lingering resistance from regional administrations to the approval of a new, unified draft constitution and predicted rapid progress toward its adoption this autumn.

Parliament was expected to resume its counter-attacks on the Kremlin from Friday, the start of the next plenary session.

Meanwhile, the Ukrainian government's decision to give Russia its part of the Black Sea Fleet could run into trouble in the country's unruly parliament — and referred to the constitutional court — suspending Mr. Rutsikoi pending the outcome of a corruption probe.

The decree and the action itself were fraught with legal and constitutional intricacies and were widely analysed as a potential symbolic attack on Mr. Yeltsin than as a practical deprivation of power, which Mr. Rutsikoi lacks anyway.

At the Yalta meeting, Ukraine agreed to transfer its nuclear weapons to Russia for dismantlement and to cede part or all of its share of the Black Sea Fleet in exchange for financial compensation and debt relief from Russia, officials said this weekend.

Although the deal worked out at Yalta is still subject to formal signature, ratification by parliament and a host of modifications, the Kremlin has held it up as both an emblem of Mr. Yeltsin's unrivaled competence and the legislature's general ineptitude.

"It is becoming more and more evident that the present composition of the Supreme Soviet (parliament) has exhausted its political and moral authority," the statement said.

The Yalta accord, and the Kremlin's interpretation of it, came several days after Mr. Yeltsin issued a decree immediately contested by the parliament and referred to the constitutional court — suspending Mr. Rutsikoi pending the outcome of a corruption probe.

Diplomats say it also is likely to demoralise a population already battered by the effects of economic collapse.

President Leonid Kravchuk admitted he made the concessions under duress from Russian leaders pressing Ukraine to make good on debt repayments, mainly for gas and oil.

But Mr. Kravchuk also indicated he would fight hard to defend the deal and accused opponents of ignoring disastrous economic realities.

A dejected-looking Deputy Prime Minister Valery Shararov, however, told a news conference in Kiev Saturday: "The Russian proposals were totally unexpected. No one had ever discussed such an option before."

"We shall take all measures to make implementation of this Moscow model more beneficial to Ukraine."

Gorbachev calls for Russian elections

LONDON (R) — Former Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev said Sunday that Russian President Boris Yeltsin had failed to introduce reforms and he called for a general election in Russia later this year.

"I think Yeltsin really has failed in a big way, in a major way. Therefore I am now calling for a solution in the form of early elections of the president and of the Supreme Soviet," he said during an interview with David Frost on British Broadcasting Corporation Television.

Mr. Gorbachev, who led the Soviet Union from communism to democracy during his seven years in power, said elections were necessary because Russia had been drifting without political direction since June 1992.

When asked when the election should be held, he replied through an interpreter: "I say in

quickly. Their minds are full of other things. You have to give them time to understand how they should use freedom and that's very complicated."

When asked if he thought Mr. Yeltsin would be reelected, he said: "I think his time has passed. I think that he has exhausted his potential, unfortunately, very quickly and he is being manipulated now... by certain political groups and he is confused. He doesn't know what to do."

He added there was no doubt the Yeltsin era was over. But Mr. Gorbachev, who played one of the biggest roles in ending more than four decades of cold war, expressed optimism for the future of Russia. "So far as the long-term perspective I am absolutely an optimist because Russia has had times of even greater trouble in its thousands of years of history and it always recovered."

The Pope, who Saturday called for reconciliation between "winners and losers" in post-Communist countries, warned of the dangers of what he called "sinister new adventures, undertaken under the blind impulse of ideologies, of national pride."

"May brothers and sisters in the faith never again become enemies because of self-interest, language, national flag, traditions, (or let) violent passions put them on opposite sides," he said.

The Pope, who will also visit Latvia and Estonia on this trip, later held an open-air mass at Vilnius' Vingis Park.

India sheds one more colonial legacy

NEW DELHI (AP) — Lawyers entering an India court bow reverently to the judge and begin their arguments by addressing him as "My Lord" or "Your Lordship." But that tradition, which British colonists brought here 200 years ago, is about to end. The country's top body of lawyers, the Bar Council of India, informed the chief justice of the Supreme Court that they have voted down this tradition and told him to endorse their decision. The Bar Council wrote to Supreme Court Chief Justice M.N. Venkatesh and told him to formally replace the colonial form of addressing judges with the words "sir" or "Your Honour."

The change is needed, the Bar Council said, because judges are no longer the nominees of kings or queens. "The Americans have shown that we don't need these verbal trappings or these dresses to maintain the dignity of the court," said Rakesh Luthra, a British-educated Indian lawyer who practises in the Supreme Court.

After independence in

NEWS IN BRIEF

Rainey badly hurt in crash

MISANO (AFP) — World motorcycling champion Wayne Rainey was seriously injured in a crash Sunday during an Italian Grand Prix won by his Italian teammate Luca Cadalora. Rainey crashed on the 11th lap and his condition was as serious by the circuit doctor, who had the Californian helicoptered to the nearest specialist hospital, at Cesena, for further examination. Dr. Costa said Rainey had broken two vertebrae in the spill. Rainey, who started on the front row of the grid, crashed out leaving Suzuki's Kevin Schwantz and Cadalora to fight for the spoils with Australia's Michael Doohan. Doohan's Honda charged through the field for second place, but Schwantz was more than happy with third spot as he regained the overall lead with 219 points, just five ahead of Rainey. Cadalora's win was his second of the season following his success at Donington Park, England. Schwantz is now five points clear with two races left.

Ten French soccer fans arrested

PARIS (R) — French police have arrested 10 soccer fans in connection with violence at a Paris stadium last month in which several policemen were injured, court sources said Sunday. The sources said those arrested were aged between 18 and 30 and were supporters of French first division club Paris St Germain. They could face trial for rebellion, conspiracy, attacking police officers, damaging property and theft, said the sources. The violence flared after a match between Paris St Germain and Caen at the Parc Des Princes stadium in Paris August 28. France is anxious to stamp out soccer violence because it is due to host the 1998 World Cup.

Jordan is tops with Australian youngsters

BRISBANE (AP) — American basketball star Michael Jordan is the most popular sporting hero with Australian youngsters, according to a survey released Sunday. The survey of more than 600 students at high schools across Queensland State found Jordan was more popular than home-grown heroes like rugby league star Allan Langer, Australian cricket captain Allan Border and golfer Greg Norman. Students were given a list of leading sporting personalities and asked to rank them in order of popularity in the survey, conducted by the Sunday Mail newspaper. Chicago Bulls star Jordan polled 1,375 points, ahead of rugby league Stars Langer (1,051), Wally Lewis (798) and Willie Carne (726). Another American basketball player, Shaquille O'Neal, was fifth, with 597.

Karpov, Timman meet for official title

PARIS (AFP) — Russia's Anatoly Karpov and Dutchman Jan Timman meet Monday in the Dutch town of Zwolle for the first game in the "other" world chess championship, the official contest backed by the World Chess Federation (FIDE). The meeting is certain to be overshadowed by the match beginning Tuesday in London between the current world champion Garry Kasparov and Britain's Nigel Short who defeated both Karpov and Timman to earn the right to challenge for the world title. FIDE invited Karpov, 42, and Timman, 41, to compete for the title after it disowned Kasparov and Short for announcing that they would make their own arrangements for the staging of the championship final, in a dispute over how the venue was to be chosen. FIDE, which has organised the world chess championship since 1948, has struck Kasparov and Short from its official listings.

Alfonso gives Real Madrid flying start

PAMPLONA, Spain (R) — Real Madrid striker Alfonso Perez scored twice to help his team to a 4-1 win at Osasuna in a flying start to the Spanish soccer season Saturday. Real Madrid, first division runners-up last season, had won only two of their previous 10 matches against Osasuna in Pamplona. They played a fine attacking game and did not appear to miss injured Chilean striker Ivan Zamorano. Alfonso scored his first goal in the 44th minute and added his second minutes later to give Real Madrid a 2-0 lead. Emilio Butrageno scored in the 70th minute and Michel Gonzalez hammered in a penalty in the 84th minute to put the visitors 4-0 in front. Osasuna's Yugoslav defender Pedrag Spasic, a former Real Madrid player, gave the home team its only goal two minutes later with a long shot that beat goalkeeper Francisco Buyo.

Warhurst transfers to Blackburn

BLACKBURN (AP) — After failing to reach an agreement three weeks ago, English Premier League soccer teams Sheffield Wednesday and Blackburn have worked out a transfer deal for Paul Warhurst. Warhurst, who scored six goals for Wednesday last season, will join Blackburn for 2.75 million pounds (\$1.12 million) pending the results of a medical checkup. He is expected to debut for his new team Saturday. Warhurst was primarily a defenseman during his first 5 1/2 years in the league, but was called into emergency service on the front line at the end of last season and helped Wednesday to the finals of the League Cup and the Football Association Cup.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANIAH SHRECH
Globe Television Media Services, Inc.

GIVE ONE, TAKE TEN

East-West vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♦ A K Q 10 5 2
♦ 8 3
♦ A 9 4
♦ 4 3 2

WEST
♦ A 2 7 6 3
♦ 5 4
♦ 3 2
♦ Q Q J 10 7
♦ K 8 5 3 2
♦ K J 9 7 6
♦ A Q 10
SOUTH
♦ J 9
♦ A K J 10 9 7 5
♦ 6
♦ 8 5 4

The bidding:
South West North East
4 ♦ Pass Pass Pass
Opening lead: Queen of ♦
We continue with our series on safety plays—anti-percentage plays which, while they will often fail to produce the maximum number of tricks, ensure the success of the contract.

At this vulnerability, we like South's full-blooded preempt of four hearts. Although the hand has only six sure tricks, the 100 bonus provides some cushion. If it achieves its objective, Note that East-West are cold for five diamonds and five clubs is defeated only by a diamond ruff, yet neither can conveniently enter

the auction.

West started the queen of diamonds, taken by dummy's ace. Declarer led a trump to the king and did not fully appreciate what was in store when West declared a club. In fact, the contract could no longer be made! Declarer crossed to the queen of spades, finessed the nine of trumps, cashed the ace and then tried to discard a club on spades. Unfortunately, East ruffed the second and spades and declarer still had to surrender three club tricks—down one.

As long as there is a trump in dummy, the defenders cannot take more than two club tricks and a trump. With a combined holding of nine trumps, the odds favor dropping the queen in two rounds, but in this instance declarer should have been willing to concede a trump trick for the greater good. At trick two, declarer should have taken a trump finesse.

If it loses, the defenders can cash their two club tricks, but South will take the rest of the tricks. If it wins and West follows, declarer draws trumps and claims. If it wins and West shows out, declarer crosses to the table with a spade, repeats the finesse, draws trumps and 13 tricks is defeated only by a diamond ruff, yet neither can conveniently enter

U.S. Open Sampras, Chang charge through Rain wipes out most of schedule

NEW YORK (AP) — On a day when rain slowed the tempo of the United States Tennis Open, second-seeded Pete Sampras sped into the fourth round of the men's singles with a straight-set victory over unseeded Frenchman Arnaud Boetsch.

Sampras, whose afternoon match was rescheduled for the night session because of rain delays totalling four and a half hours, took just one and a half hours to beat Boetsch 6-4, 6-3, 6-1.

"I served pretty well today, and I returned a little bit better as the match wore on," the Wimbledon champion said.

Seventh-seeded Michael Chang had to work a little harder to come up with a 4-6, 6-4, 6-3, 6-4 victory over German Bernd Korbacher.

Korbacher was up a break and had two break points to make it 5-4 in the second but failed to convert, leaving the American relieved.

"It is a very big deal," he said of the match. "I was very fortunate to squeak out of that second set."

Chang's next opponent will be South African Wayne Ferreira, who beat German Marc Goeller 6-4, 6-7 (1/7), 3-6, 6-4, 6-3, while Sampras will meet Sweden's Thomas Enqvist, who upset Andre Agassi in the first round.

Ferreira beat Zimbabwe's Byron Black 6-3, 6-1, 6-1 to reach the round of 16 in his first appearance in the event.

Although cautious about his chances of going all the way, Enqvist was not prepared to write himself off.

"I feel good," he said. "I have good confidence. I am in very good shape. Now you just look at the next match, trying to win every match you play."

Sampras said he thought he knew what to expect from Enqvist.

"I played him twice before and beat him both times, but I think he has made a lot of improvements to his game," Sampras said. "Obviously, I was surprised that he beat Andre. His first serve is really hard. It will just be a matter of me staying back and being patient."



Michael Chang

Austria's 12th seeded Thomas Muster, whose match with Patrick McEnroe was disrupted

twice by the rain, finally won 6-4, 6-4, 6-4.

Muster, whose world number

12 ranking is due largely to his success on clay, was the highest-seeded player left in his quarter of the draw after the spate of early upsets claimed Stefan Edberg and Michael Stich.

"Maybe I'm the most unexpected (seed) left," said Muster, who rarely plays hardcourt tournament because they are so damaging to the knee that was injured when he was hit by a car in 1989.

He led 4-2 when the rain first started. Three and a half hours later, after several near-starts, the two players returned to play for 20 minutes.

Then the slow drizzle started again.

They waited out another hour and then the weather finally cleared for good.

McEnroe said the interruptions were not really a factor in the match.

"It's difficult for everyone," he said. "I don't think it affected the way the match went. We both came out and played well after the breaks."

Also in Muster's quarter, 14th-seeded Alexander Volkov of Russia beat Amos Mansdorf 2-6, 7-5, 6-4, 6-2.

The two other Maleeva Sisters joined their sister Manuela Maleeva-Fragner in the fourth round with straight set victories.

Fourth-seeded Magdalena Maleeva, at 18 the youngest of the trio, beat American Kimberly Po 2-6, 6-3, 6-1.

Middle sister Katerina Maleeva, 24, defeated Gigi Fernandez 6-1, 6-1.

Natalia Zvereva of Belarus upset 16th-seeded Zina Garrison Jackson of the United States 6-4, 6-3 and in the next round meets 20-year-old Argentinian Maria Jose Gaidano.

Gaidano, the 'lucky-loser' who replaced ailing Mary Joe Fernandez in the draw, advanced with a 2-6, 6-2, 6-3 victory over Australian Jenny Byrne.

The rain delays prevented completion of the women's third round.

Second-seed Arantxa Sanchez and number three Martina Navratilova had their matches postponed, as did 12th seed Helene Sukova and number 14 Nathalie Taaziat.

China's National Games to boost Olympic bid

BEIJING — A celebration of the Olympic spirit and patriotism marked the opening ceremony of China's Seventh National Games Saturday evening, seen by many as a last chance to boost Beijing's bid to host the 2000 Olympics.

"Five stars call for five rings," sang two Chinese pop stars, Wei

Wei and Liu Huai at the end of the one-hour ceremony in the capital's Workers' Stadium.

For those who did not immediately make the connection, the thousands of dancers in the stadium formed themselves into the shape of China's red flag with five stars which they then trans-

formed into the Olympic banner with its five rings.

And just in case that was too subtle, a multicoloured laser show then got under way with a massive red neon sign spelling out the year 2000 as its centerpiece.

Beijing is one of five cities bidding to host the turn-of-the-century games, with the site to be chosen by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) in Monte Carlo September 23.

On the official's stand were 11 IOC delegates who had been welcomed prior to the ceremony by Communist Party chief and Chinese President Jiang Zemin.

The themes of brotherhood and Olympic spirit did not prevent, however, the organisers of the national games from operating double standards when it came to ticket sales.

Tickets for the opening ceremony were available to Chinese at 100, 200 or 300 renminbi, while foreigners were expected to pay 300 yuan in foreign exchange certificates which have an actual value of 450 renminbi.

Some observers wondered whether a similar discrepancy would be enforced should Beijing win the race to host the 2000 Games.

THE AMERICAN WOMEN OF AMMAN
will hold their September monthly general meeting
on September 6th at the Marriot Hotel
from 10 am - Noon

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THE SCANDINAVIAN LADIES
The Scandinavian Ladies of Amman will have their first General Meeting, for the new season, on the (8th) of September, at 10:00 a.m. at the Marriott Hotel.
ALL MEMBERS, new members and guests are most welcome.

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1993 Women's Basketball Championship begins today

By Aleen Bannayan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — After a 15-month break, women's basketball teams return to competition Monday in the Kingdom's 1993 Women's Basketball Championship, organised by the Jordan Basketball Federation (JBF).

This year too, only four teams will be competing in the two-week long tournament. They will be titholders, Al Orthodoxi, second-placed Al Ahli, Al Jazireh, and newcomers Abu Nusair. Homemmen, who with the Kingdom's top two teams backed the JBF's move to reinvigorate the game in 1989, have opted not to take part in this year's competition because of the absence of many of their players.

The competition, now held for the 4th straight year, is the only yearly activity the JBF provides for the country's women's teams. This year's competition was scheduled to take place in April. However, it was postponed four times before the JBF finally announced that it would begin Sept. 6.

Despite the players' and coaches' disapproval of the usually crammed schedule and two-round championship which burdens players and does not provide enough matches in the once-a-year competition, the JBF seems to have not taken this into consideration — and to the players' discontent — the women's competition will be over before anyone notices that it actually took place.

The JBF has repeatedly postponed the regrouping of the women's national team since the 1992 championship ended last May. Although the team was called for a meeting to agree upon a training schedule in January, the team was never regrouped again.

Al Orthodoxi had won the 1992 championship after easily defeating all-time rivals Al Ahli 73-50 and 62-30. Al Ahli finished second after two final minute victories of 43-41 and 52-49 over Homemmen. Al Jazireh clinched third place from Homemmen after defeating them 48-30.

This season Al Orthodoxi seem capable of retaining their title, thanks to an abundance of experienced players. Al Ahli and Al Jazireh will seek to capture second place, while Abu Nusair seem destined to have a tough time, the first time around.

Abu Nusair take on Al Orthodoxi and Al Ahli clash with Al Jazireh in the championship's opening matches Monday.

SCHEDULE OF MATCHES

FIRST ROUND

Monday Sept. 6
Orthodoxi vs. Abu Nusair (5 p.m. — Orthodoxi Court)
Abli vs. Jazireh (6 p.m. — Abli Court)
Orthodoxi vs. Jazireh (6 p.m. — Orthodoxi Court)
Abu Nusair vs. Abli (5 p.m. — Abu Nusair Court)
Orthodoxi vs. Abli (6:30 p.m. — Orthodoxi Court)

Tuesday Sept. 14
Jazireh vs. Abli (6:30 p.m. — JSPF Court)
Abu Nusair vs. Orthodoxi (5 p.m. — Abu Nusair Court)
Jazireh vs. Orthodoxi (6:30 p.m. — JSPF Court)
Abu Nusair vs. Jazireh (6:30 p.m. — JSPF Court)

Wednesday Sept. 23
Abli vs. Orthodoxi (6:30 p.m. Orthodoxi Court)

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Libya and Britain said to agree on Lockerbie trial

EDINBURGH (Agencies) — Britain and Libya have signed a deal to bring two men accused of blowing up a Pan Am airliner over Lockerbie in 1988 to trial in Scotland, the Sunday Post newspaper said Sunday.

The Scottish weekly said top Libyan legal expert Ibrahim Legwell visited Scotland secretly to meet the lawyers who would defend the accused, Abdel Basset Ali Mohammad Al Mewgrabi and Al Amin Khalifa Fhimah. "Every last detail of the plan to bring the men here has now been signed by the two governments" the Sunday Post said.

It said Mr. Legwell's visit three weeks ago was the culmination of 12 months of the secret negotiations.

The British Foreign Office would not confirm that a deal had been signed but a spokesman said: "We have given the Libyans a series of detailed assurances about a fair trial in Scotland and the treatment of the two men after they have been surrendered."

Britain and the United States held the two men solely responsible for planting a bomb in December 1988 that killed all 259 people aboard Pan American World Airways flight 103 from London to New York and 11 people in the small Scottish town.

The United Nations has imposed sanctions on Libya over its refusal to hand the men over. Britain, France and the United States have set Oct. 1 as the deadline for tough new measures if they are not surrendered.

The newspaper said Libya set strict terms for allowing the men to stand trial in Scotland. These included where they would be held, the food they would be

given and facilities for religious worship while in custody.

Britain agreed the two accused would arrive as free men and would not be arrested until they entered the terminal building at a Scottish airport, the Sunday Post said.

Recent Scottish media reports increased speculation that the two men will arrive in Scotland before the Oct. 1 deadline.

The Scotsman daily newspaper said two weeks ago that Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi had given secret guarantees the men would not be handed over to America whatever the outcome of trial in Scotland.

The Scotsman said top Scottish advocate Lord Macaulay of Brampton met representatives of the two men secretly in Brussels last month. Lord Macaulay, 59, a leading defence lawyer and a spokesman on Scottish legal affairs for the opposition Labour Party, admits he went to Brussels but refuses to reveal the purpose of the visit.

The Foreign Office would only say it was aware of the nature of Lord Macaulay's visit.

Libya reports sanctions effect

An engine caught fire on a Libyan airliner leaving Benghazi and forced an emergency landing 12 minutes after takeoff, Libya's news agency reported Saturday.

JANA, the official agency monitored in Cairo, reported well informed on security matters, said Col. Qadhafi last week announced Libya had the "capacity to cooperate" with Algeria's banned Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), its jailed President Abbasi Madani and deputy Ali Belhadj.

on which a 727 crashed last December with a loss of 157 lives. JANA said the emergency landing occurred Wednesday. The plane took off at 2:03 p.m. but turned back "when the aircraft commander was informed of a failure in engine number two" and landed at Benghazi at 2:15. It said the engine was destroyed by the fire.

The agency blamed the incident on the 16-month-old U.N. embargo denying Libya among other things aircraft spare parts. Quoting "a source" at Libyan Arab Airlines, JANA said "the coercive measures" against Libya "prevented the supply of the necessary spare parts needed for the maintenance of aircraft and to guarantee aviation safety."

It said: "The measures were the cause for what the Libyan aircraft suffered and almost led to a new catastrophe."

Algerian paper assails Qadhafi



Somalis stand in front of the body of one of Nigerian soldiers killed in one of two ambushes against peacekeeping forces in Mogadishu (AFP photo)

Seven Nigerian soldiers killed in Mogadishu attack

MOGADISHU (Agencies) — Seven Nigerian U.N. troops were killed by Somali gunmen in north Mogadishu early Sunday and another two, apparently badly wounded, were taken prisoner, residents said.

Somali sources said at least 15 Somalis, including some women and children, were killed in fighting between the Nigerian patrol and gunmen who chanted slogans supporting fugitive warlord Mohammad Farah Aideed.

There was no immediate comment from U.N. sources on the incident, which appeared to be the most serious attack on U.N. peacekeepers since 23 Pakistani were killed in June by gunmen loyal to General Aideed.

Reporters said they saw the bodies of seven Nigerians — stripped of their uniforms — lying in three locations several metres apart.

Local residents told reporters the Nigerians were challenged by pro-Aideed gunmen as the U.N. soldiers drove before dawn in two vehicles to Checkpoint pasta, manned by Italian troops, following reports of shooting in the area.

After trying to talk with the angry Somalis, the Nigerians fired in the air — drawing intense gunfire from two directions, the residents said.

The elders told the Nigerian commander to go away because "we don't want to fight you." But the Nigerians opened fire and the angry crowd reacted, one elder said.

The newspaper quoted "a U.N. military official," whom it did not name, as saying that to have ended the payments "would have been like opening a second front."

The heavily fortified U.N. compound in the city has come under almost nightly attack since the June ambush that killed the two Pakistanis.

Early on Saturday, an unknown number of gunmen tried to sever the walls of a U.S. military compound close to U.N. headquarters, but were driven off with a volley of shots.

Meanwhile the Sunday Times in London reported that the United Nations had been paying Gen. Aideed more than \$100,000 a month even after the world body offered a \$25,000 reward for his arrest.

The money was paid by U.N. agencies in Mogadishu, supposedly for the hire of gunmen loyal to Aideed who would provide security for aid convoys,

the newspaper quoted development programme coordinator Peter Schumann as saying.

In fact, since the Americans landed in Somalia last December, the gunmen have escorted no convoy and are kept on the payroll.

The payments continued "even when Aideed was declared a wanted person by U.N. forces in June," the official said.

Mr. Schumann said he had decided on his own initiative to end the payments.

The newspaper quoted "a U.N. military official," whom it did not name, as saying that to have ended the payments "would have been like opening a second front."

Witnesses said the Nigerians tried to withdraw but their path was blocked by more Somalis and they succeeded in driving only about a kilometre before the entire party was wiped out.

Witnesses said Italian troops at Checkpoint Pasta had tried to save the Nigerians by urging local elders to cool down the gunmen, but the crowd ignored them and lit barricades of tyres to block U.N. reinforcements.

Several hours later, Italian commander General Bruno Lio reached the scene in a bid to recover the soldiers' bodies, several Pakistani tanks trying to get to the spot failed to break through the barricades.

It took Gen. Lio half an hour of intense negotiation before the Italian troops were allowed to remove the bodies.

The incident brought to 46 the number of U.N. peacekeepers killed in Somalia this year.

Sunday's attack followed a period of mounting tension in Mogadishu after a series of round-ups by heavily armed U.N. troops searching for arms caches in the city.

The situation in the area of the clash remained tense. Crowds shouted and gestured angrily at U.N. troops and journalists.

On Saturday, gunmen built makeshift barricades along the main street in south Mogadishu as an act of defiance. One barrier was only 100 metres from a Pakistani checkpoint.

Soldier, reformist in Algerian cabinet

ALGIERS (R) — Algeria drafted a tough soldier and a taboo-breaking economist into a new government, signaling a coordinated drive against Muslim militants and a new push to rescue the battered economy.

Diplomats and commentators see the new interior minister, Salim Sadi, former chief of Algeria's third military region, and Economy Minister Mourad Benachour, an ex-World Bank official, as policy standard bearers of the 25-man government.

Prime Minister Redha Malek, a member of the five-man presidency, brought new faces to the energy and foreign portfolios at the weekend but kept eight ministers in their former jobs.

The Chinese statement recalled that China was a signatory to the chemical weapons convention, which has yet to take effect.

"The Chinese government will,

as always, strictly observe its international obligations and make its contribution to safeguarding international peace and security and promoting normal economic and trade exchanges among countries," it said.

Mr. Benachour has strongly

supported rescheduling some of the Algeria's estimated \$25 billion foreign debt and speeding up privatisation of an economy badly misfiring after nearly 30 years of socialist centralised management.

"Nominating a minister with good links with international institutions signals possible serious negotiations," a Western diplomat said, referring to Mr. Benachour's World Bank ties.

"Does it mean rescheduling is going to be government policy? It certainly judges us in that direction."

Officials say the failure of the economy fuels discontent, particularly among the 17 million aged under 30 of the country's 26 million people, providing a fertile breeding ground for Islamic extremism.

Debt-repayments of around \$9 billion a year or over 70 per cent of foreign income from oil and

gas exports, the only significant exports, have ravaged the economy.

More than 20 per cent of the population is unemployed, much industry, lacking spare parts and raw materials, operates at half capacity, and there is a chronic housing shortage.

"Rescheduling becomes urgent, of little cost if you compare it to the alternative of the total economic collapse threatening our country if the self-imposed policy of strangulation continues," Mr. Benachour wrote recently.

In nearly 20 months, more than 1,000 people have been killed in violence blamed on fundamentalists, despite thousands of arrests, a state of emergency, night curfews, more than 250 death sentences and 13 executions this year.

China assails U.S. over ship affair, demands damages

PEKING (Agencies) — China focused the United States Sunday of "hegemonism and power politics" in the dispute over a Chinese freighter Washington claimed was carrying chemical weapons material.

The Foreign Ministry said in a lengthy statement carried by the official Xinhua news agency that the inspection of the Yinhe began Aug. 28 was complete, and that no evidence was found of the chemicals the United States said were bound for Iran.

The statement said the United States and Saudi Arabia, which was conducting the inspection at its port in Damman, have jointly signed a report on the search.

"It demanded a public apology and millions of dollars in damages from Washington.

China also indicted U.S. intelligence reports on the ship and its cargo as no more than rumour and fabrication.

Washington described the foisted search as "unfortunate" and declined to pay damages, indicating that similar searches would be carried out in future.

State Department spokesman Michael McCurry said the search was in line with President Bill Clinton's policy of halting proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

"The inconvenience to the Yinhe and to the governments of Saudi Arabia and China are unfortunate," he said, stopping

short of an apology.

Washington had charged that the freighter was carrying thiocyanate and thiocyanide determined for Iran. China had said 24 containers bound for Iran contained stationery, metals and machine parts.

"If such behaviour of a self-styled 'world cop' is to be condemned, can there still be justice, sovereign equality and normal state-to-state relations in this world," the Chinese Foreign Ministry said.

The ministry condemned the United States for "hegemonism and power politics pure and simple."

The United States acted "in an utterly indiscreet and irresponsible manner," the statement said.

The joint inspection in the port of Damman was conducted between Aug. 26 and Sept. 4 on the ship, which left the northern Chinese port of Tianjin on July 15 bound for Dubai.

The Foreign Ministry said the United States had acted without even the "basic facts."

The United States acted "in an utterly indiscreet and irresponsible manner," the statement said.

But Mr. McCurry said there was "credible evidence" for the U.S. action, adding that Washington would continue demanding similar inspections "when we receive information concerning possible exports to weapons programmes of concern."

The Chinese statement recalled that China was a signatory to the chemical weapons convention, which has yet to take effect.

"The Chinese government will, as always, strictly observe its international obligations and make its contribution to safeguarding international peace and security and promoting normal economic and trade exchanges among countries," it said.

Mr. Benachour has strongly

supported rescheduling some of the Algeria's estimated \$25 billion foreign debt and speeding up privatisation of an economy badly misfiring after nearly 30 years of socialist centralised management.

"The lack of clear and specific references, the continued existence and possible growth of the settlements, the delay of the questions of Jerusalem and settlements will be major stumbling blocks," said a member of the Jordanian Communi-

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